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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Did you max out your credit card(s) this past holiday season?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Major Operation

U.S. and Iraqi forces launched a major operation to strike against al-Qaida in Iraq and other extremists.

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Worst Dressed

Mr. Blackwell has put Victoria Beckham at the top of his annual worst-dressed list.

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DOT threatens to cancel air taxi certificate of Taga Air. **PAGE 2**

600 unpaid Labor judgments

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

From 300, the Federal Ombudsman's Office has now collected 600 Labor administrative orders that awarded unpaid wages and other damages to guest workers but remain uncollected.

Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he can't give a precise summary yet, but that it will be a multi-million dollar figure.

"As to what recommendations I will

See 600 on Page 4

SINE DIE JACUQLEINE HERNANDEZ

House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta, right, turns over his office keys and gavel to House Minority Leader and incoming Speaker Arnold I. Palacios during the 15th Legislature's last session at the House of Representatives on Capital Hill yesterday.

Chalan Lau Lau residents upset over dog shooting

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A neighborhood in Chalan Lau Lau is up against a person whom they believe is responsible for the shooting of more than 10 cats and two dogs in their area the past two years.

The residents sought help from Pet Assistance Welfare Services and Depart-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A dog named Jolo lies dead after a man shot him Tuesday morning in Chalan Lau Lau.

Clinton, McCain pull off upsets in NH

By DAVID ESPO and PHILIP ELLIOTT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

AMERISA VOTES

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton won New Hampshire's Democratic primary Tuesday night in a startling upset, defeating Sen. Barack Obama and resurrecting her bid for

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RELATED NEWS

- Obama says he's still fired up and ready. **PAGE 14**
- Romney says he's in it for the long haul. **PAGE 14**

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., reacts at her Democratic primary election night victory rally in Manchester, N.H., Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008.

Bye Hotel Nikko; hello to Palms Resort Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Starting Feb. 1, 2008, Hotel Nikko Saipan will be no more and the hotel at the northernmost part of Saipan will henceforth be called Palms Resort Saipan, with new owner United Micronesia Development Association still deliberating on who among world-class hoteliers Sherraton, Hilton, and Marriott to manage the property.

In an interview yesterday, UMDA di-

See BYE on Page 4

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Local

House OKs lawsuit vs Retirement Fund

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives is poised to take the NMI Retirement Fund to court over the suspension of pension benefits to new retirees.

In session for the last time, the members of the 15th House voted unanimously yesterday to adopt a resolution allowing the House counsel to take legal action to prevent the Fund from implementing the suspension.

House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta said the House would file the request for injunction before the end of next week.

According to the lawmakers, the Retirement Fund has no right to keep members from retiring, in spite of the actions of the executive and legislative branches.

"It is a violation of the Retirement Fund's contractual relationship with its members, and a violation of the CNMI and U.S. Constitutions for the board of trustees of the Retirement Fund [to] impair the benefits of its members as a results of the actions or omissions of the executive and legislative branches," states a portion of the resolution.

The House said the Fund must find another way to save the pension program.

On Nov. 20, 2007, the Fund board of trustees adopted a resolution to stop processing members' benefits. The reason: the government's continued failure to remit full contributions to the Fund and the passage of certain laws deemed damaging to the pension program.

"The Retirement Fund board of trustees, in upholding their fiduciary duty of protecting the Retirement Fund's assets for the members' benefits, intends to direct the Retirement Fund to immediately suspend processing all applications for retirement or any other benefits of any Retirement Fund member with deficient employer contribution," reads the resolution.

Affected are all employees at government agencies that have not remitted full employer contributions to the Retirement Fund. These agencies include the Legislature, entities within the central government, and certain autonomous agencies.

Since 2001, the central government has failed to pay full employer contributions to the Fund. From March 2006 through the end of FY 2007, no employer contributions were paid at all.

On Friday, the House of Representatives passed a bill setting the government retirement contribution rate at 18 percent of the employees' salaries. This rate represents half of the actuary-recommended rate of 36.7 percent for the defined benefit plan.

In addition to incomplete contribution payments, the government has failed to remit amounts earmarked for the Fund.

The government has failed to remit biweekly payments of $500,000 toward reducing the amount owed in employer contributions, as agreed upon by the Fund and the government. The payments were supposed to have begun on Jan. 13, 2006.

The Fund also has been receiving incomplete payments for the early retirement bonus and for the special benefit for past governors and lt. governors.

Recently, the Legislature, by overriding the governor's veto, enacted a law allowing Fund members with 15 years of service to withdraw their retirement contribution with interest. The Fund said this will force the agency to liquidate assets to meet the cash demand resulting from the new law.

PDI's Kawaguchi bids Saipan adieu

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Development Inc. outgoing president Joji Kawaguchi bid adieu to his adopted islands last Tuesday when he left for Japan to begin his new assignment at PDI's parent company, Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. Ltd.

Some 40 friends and associates in the local travel and hotel industries showed up at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport to personally say goodbye to the 10-year Saipan resident, who first worked in the CNMI at then PDI sister company Hafadai Beach Hotel.

According to PDI incoming president Yoichi Matsumura, well-wishers present included a number of Japanese corporate presidents and members of various organizations on Saipan that Kawaguchi was a part of like the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, Japanese Business Society, Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, and Japan Saipan Travel Association.

Kawaguchi, who described his stay in the Marianas as the happiest of his life, even had to console the owners of one of the local jetski companies who could not stop crying because he was losing a good friend in the outgoing PDI president.

Matsumura said although his "boss" has left the CNMI, Kawaguchi will continue to serve as an adviser to the local tour agency. He said Kawaguchi will continue to work closely with PDI to bring in more Japanese tourists to the Northern Marianas.

Kawaguchi first arrived on Saipan in 1997, working as a front desk manager and housekeeping manager for Hafadai Beach Hotel.

In 2002, he was offered the executive position at PDI. As president of the tour company, Kawaguchi was instrumental in developing group incentive tours such as golf tournaments with the *man'amko* and in overseeing donations to the Chamolinian Cultural Village.

Kawaguchi also made many donations to the local schools.

From 2001 to 2007, he served as chairman of the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands. In 2005, he became a member of the Japan Business Executive Committee, a group of locally based Japanese businessmen.

He will start his new assignment at the Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. Ltd., PDI's parent company in Tokyo, this month, overlooking the company's international sales department including the Rota charter project.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Development Inc. outgoing president Joji Kawaguchi, center with *mwar-mwar*, was sent off by some 40 friends and associates from the islands' travel and hotel industries Tuesday at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

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Must be 21 years or older. some restrictions apply
LIVE RESPONSIBLY

DOT threatens to cancel air taxi certificate of Taga Air

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Department of Transportation is threatening to cancel Taga Air Charter Service Inc.'s air taxi certificate if it does not provide proof that the company is owned by a U.S. citizen.

In an order dated Dec. 17, 2007, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Andrew B. Steinberg directed "all interested persons to show cause why it should not issue an order finding that Taga Air Charter Services, Inc., is not a U.S. citizen, as defined in 49 U.S.C. 4-102 (a) (15), and its application for Commuter Air Carrier Authorization under section 41737 of the Statute is denied."

Steinberg also proposed the cancellation of Taga Air's existing air taxi registration pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 40109 (f) and 14 CFR part 298 because of the questionable status of the company's owners.

Taga Air has been given until Jan. 22, 2008, to file objections on the order issued by the agency.

Taga Air submitted its proposal to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to provide air transport services between Saipan and Tinian using Piper PA32-300 in May and June 2005.

In Nov. 25, 2005, a Taga Air flight to Saipan took off for nightly charter services between Saipan and Tinian.

In Aug. 11 of the following year, a seven-seater Piper Cherokee plane of Taga Air crashed in the early morning at a farm in Upper Dandan injuring its pilot and six passengers.

Taga Air is owned by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. *Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from the company yesterday but e-mail messages left with Tinian Dynasty hotel manager Tom Liu were not answered as of press time.

Loosened rules for notaries public nixed

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has vetoed a bill allowing CNMI mayors and lawmakers, as well as any government employee delegated by the attorney general, to serve automatically as notaries public.

The governor said the content of the bill was contradictory to its intended purpose of providing "more clarity and consistency for the prevention of fraud."

"It is simply bad policy to allow government officials and employees to circumvent the requirements established for individuals seeking to be commissioned as notary publics. Essentially, this provision of the bill assumes that all mayors, legislators and government employees meet the requirements set forth for notary publics," he said in a veto message to the Legislature.

He said the other proposed changes were too arbitrary. No explanation was provided as to why and how they would improve the current law.

Some examples he cited were the provisions changing from two to four years the term of office of a notary public, increasing the required number of recommendation letters to three, and changing the qualifications of character from "good character" to "good moral character."

"The bill fails to justify how these changes will prevent any fraudulent acts," the governor said.

He also criticized a line in the bill that states all notary publics must comply with the "dos and don'ts" of a notary.

"It is surprising to see such language used in any statute or legal document. It is poor legal writing and its meaning is undoubtedly vague," he said.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres, author of the bill, was not pleased by the governor's veto message. He said the message was "unnecessarily long and filled with unjustified criticisms."

"If you want to veto a bill for your or the AG's [attorney general's] personal reasons, just keep it short and eliminate all the picky-picky excuses to veto it," Torres wrote in a letter to the governor.

Torres said there is no reason mayors and lawmakers should not be able to serve as notaries public. After all, they were elected because of their acceptable moral and public values to serve the people." He added that not all government employees, but only those chosen by the attorney general, would be authorized to serve as notaries public under the bill.

Torres also said he did not see the problem in the provisions that the governor called arbitrary.

2 men stage armed robbery at CK store

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two unidentified men staged an armed robbery at a store in Chalan Kanoa Saturday night, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the robbers managed to run off with an undetermined amount of cash from Ling Lin Store.

No one was hurt, Ogumoro said.

Police were dispatched to Ling Lin Store on Saturday at 9:48pm after DPS received a report about a robbery incident.

Preliminary investigation showed that two men entered the store and told the owner to hand over the money from the cash register. One suspect threatened the owner with a machete and hit the counter with the weapon.

This prompted the owner to give the money to the suspects. The robbers then fled. The store had no surveillance camera at that time.

One suspect was described as wearing a grey long sleeved shirt and a black mask. The second was wearing a shirt. Both were described as slim and between 5'5" to 5'7" tall.

Ogumoro said police discovered a machete located in a flower bed near the northern portion of the store.

"This case is under investigation," she said.

Saturday's incident is the first robbery reported in the CNMI this year. Last month, three robbery cases occurred on Saipan in a five-day period.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DRINKING WATER

December 2007 Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Saipan Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Throughout December 2007, we collected 100 water samples in Saipan to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Of the 100 water tests, six samples or six percent (6%) showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five percent (5%) of samples may do so.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipelines). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**

What happened? What was done? Look below for the specific village or streets where problems occurred in December 2007:

- **Dandan** (Bonita, Mwaremwar Ave. Palasyo Ct. to Buenas Dias St.)
  There was a leak in a pipeline and groundwater entered into the system. The repairs are complete.
- **San Vicente** (areas east of the school)
  A pipeline leaked in East San Vicente and groundwater entered into the CUC pipeline while repairs where being made. The repairs are complete.
- **Agag** (Upper Santa Lourdes)
  The pumping rate at the well was too high. When the water pressure was too great, the pump and treatment station shut down (tripped off). The pumping rate was reset and treatment resumed.
- **Kagman** (Along Highway 39 – the main road)
  The chlorination system malfunctioned during power outages.
- **As Perdido**
  The chlorination system malfunctioned during power outages.

For more information, please contact CUC Laboratory Manager Heidi Yelin at 322-5140 or via email at: cuclabman@yahoo.com or contact CUC Water Division Manager Mariano Iglecias at 235-7025 or via email at: miglecias@cucgov.net

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in baracks, apartments, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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CLINTON

From Page 1

the White House. Sen. John McCain powered past his Republican rivals and back into contention for the GOP nomination.

"I felt like we all spoke from our hearts and I am so gratified that you responded," Clinton said in victory remarks before cheering supporters. "Now together, let's give America the kind of comeback that New Hampshire has just given me."

Her victory capped a revival from last week's third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses. It also raised the possibility of a long battle for the party nomination between the most viable black candidate in history and the former first lady, who is seeking to become the first woman to occupy the Oval Office.

"I am still fired up add ready to go," a defeated Obama told his own backers, repeating the line that forms a part of virtually every campaign appearance he makes.

Clinton, whose husband, former President Bill Clinton, used a second-place finish in New Hampshire to propel himself to the White House, had trailed Obama in recent polling. In the last days, though, she overhauled her campaign operation in the state and took a new tone to the trail. Aides, meanwhile, executed the long-laid ground game that even rivals acknowledged was masterful.

Her campaign had braced for a second loss in a key early state in America's state-by-state nominating process. Early Tuesday, it was still uncertain if their ground-game plan would work.

The campaign had made than 1.4 million phone calls to voters and 6,000 volunteers canvassing the small northeastern state in the last few days.

The one-time front-runner saw her advantage evaporate, but she trod onward. She spent Tuesday visiting polling locations and coffee shops and vowed to meet with as many voters as she could before polls closed at 8 p.m.

"We're going to work all day to get the vote out," Clinton said before dawn, visiting a polling location with daughter Chelsea.

Clinton overhauled her strategy after her Iowa embarrassment, a third-place showing in the opening caucuses. She took voters' questions and appeared less stilted. She showed more emotion, worked hard to connect with voters and appeared less imperial. She and husband Bill Clinton retooled her stump speech to emphasize change—the watchword of this election.

"If you want to know what I will do as president, I hope you will look at what I've done," she told reporters in her closing argument. "Because the election isn't about choosing change over experience. Change only comes with experience. And with the challenges we face, we've never needed change more, or the experience and strength to make it happen."

In the end, though, key voting blocs were there for Clinton in New Hampshire—or were not there for Obama, depending on how the campaigns frame it. According to exit polling conducted by The Associated Press and the networks, far more women voted than men; Clinton won 45 percent of them compared to 36 for Obama.

Also according to exit polls, only half as many New Hampshire voters under 30 turned out as in Iowa, depriving Obama of crucial support.

The campaign organized down to the precinct level. They built lists of endorsers and volunteers. They spent more than $5 million (€3.4 million) on 5,000 television ads in New Hampshire media markets.

Despite that, as the summer wore on, Clinton's poll numbers leveled out. Obama built a similar organization and his name identification crept upward.

When asked Tuesday morning what she planned to tell supporters Tuesday night, Clinton only offered a cautious "We'll see."

Record turnout hinted she faced a more-difficult-than-predicted challenge from Obama. Her husband, the former president, starting spinning a loss in New Hampshire and blaming the calendar for not giving the campaign time to adjust after Iowa.

"The only thing I hate is New Hampshire should have had the customary 10 days after Iowa. If they had, I wouldn't have any doubt about the outcome of this. It's just hard to overcome the media deluge," Bill Clinton said in Seabrook, returning to his frequent criticism of how reporters have covered his wife compared to Obama.

"It's just almost impossible to vote five days after Iowa without being unduly influenced by the media coverage from Iowa. So, you know, that colored the polls—the switch in the polls for two days—and then we've had a three-day election."

Even without the time, it was enough.

ERRATUM

In the *Saipan Tribune* story titled "Chamber installs new set of officers" published on Jan. 7, 2008, Commodore Phillip Sawyer, commander of the Submarine Squadron 15, was inadvertently quoted as saying that the USS *Ohio* is moving to Guam. What he said was: "Additionally, the USS Ohio, homeported in Bangor Washington, will pull into Guam in the near future. This is Ohio's first operational period since being converted from a ballistic missile submarine into a tactical strike and naval special warfare platform. Ohio has two crews—the Blue and Gold—and will provide the theater, rotational support out of Guam. She will spend about a year out here before going back to Bangor." Our apologies.

BYE

From Page 1

rector of asset management and chief financial officer Hiroyuki Saito said bringing in a well-known hotelier to run operations for Palms Resort Saipan will be in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

"[It's for] the future of the CNMI to have a world-class hotel operator here because they already have their own advertising network, clienteles, and standard and it would give the islands another landmark property," he said.

Saito said UMDA is committed to maximizing the potential of the San Roque property and hopes to reach this objective through the help of the eventual international hotelier it would select to run the former Hotel Nikko Saipan.

The UMDA official, who will serve as president and CFO of the company that will take over Nikko (Micronesian Resort, Inc.), added that he has also made a commitment to the government that the hotel will remain open until March 31, disputing reports that the property will shut down immediately after the sale to undergo renovations.

"The government has requested us to operate [even after the Jan. 31] because it's the middle of the Lunar New Year. Closing down a 300-room hotel would have a major impact on the economy and would increase room rates of other hotels," he said. "Even under the new ownership, UMDA will accommodate all reservations until March 31."

To this end, Saito has requested JAL Group to allow UMDA the use of some of the logos and signages of Hotel Nikko Saipan beyond the Jan. 31 expected close of sale date of the 313-room hotel.

In an announcement issued Dec. 21, JAL Group and the UMDA agreed to transfer the ownership of Hotel Nikko Saipan, Inc. (the owner of the property) to UMDA by the end of January 2008.

Under the agreement, UMDA will purchase from JAL Group all of its stocks in Hotel Nikko Saipan, Inc. The hotel premises include a large water park, a wedding chapel facility, restaurants, banquet rooms, tennis courts, racquetball courts, and a botanical garden.

The purchase also includes nearby staff residences (PauPau Terrace), dormitories, and interest in Tropical Laundry & Linen Supply, Co., Ltd.

Closing of the transaction is scheduled to occur on Jan. 31, 2008. Effective upon that date, JAL Hotels Co. Ltd, which currently manages the hotel, shall terminate its management contract.

UMDA is a CNMI corporation principally owned by regional individual and corporate shareholders, including the governments of the CNMI, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

CHALAN

From Page 1

ment of Public Safety commissioner Rebecca Warfield after their neighbor shot dead a bonnie dog along String Beans Avenue Tuesday at 10am.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the person who killed the dog was Adalberto Camacho, who admitted shooting the pet with his .22 Magnum rifle.

Ogumoro quoted Camacho as saying that he shot the dog because it habitually defecates on his property. Camacho claimed that he had advised the owner about this problem several times already.

Ogumoro said Camacho was not arrested, but his .22 Magnum rifle was confiscated.

"Police determined that there was no clear violation of the law. This case will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for further administrative processing," Ogumoro said.

Sources said residents who called the police ended up arguing with a police officer who had responded but "did not take any action." The officer apparently mentioned there was no violation committed and that even he himself shot a dog last year.

One resident told *Saipan Tribune* that the bonnie dog, named Jolo, a male and two years old, was walking on the road in front of the man's property.

The resident said they later heard a gunshot and saw Jolo running toward his master's house. Jolo did not reach his master's residence but fell dead. He was shot in the rib area.

When the residents checked who fired the shot, they saw Camacho holding a .22 rifle.

When they confronted him why he shot the dog, Camacho explained that the animal was messing up his property. He later apologized to the owner.

"We love that dog and many in our neighborhood are like his adopted masters because he watched our compound when we go to work. It's like everybody's feeding him," one resident said.

A female resident was really upset and cried the whole night, a resident said.

The neighbors allege that they started noticing dead cats on the road and in their premises two years ago. A resident said some people saw Camacho shooting cats.

At first, residents just ignored it until they became concerned as more cats were killed.

A year ago, Camacho allegedly shot dead a dog in the place and that Jolo is his second dog victim.

At least 10 families and many other residents are living in that area.

"This is a residential place! Can he just discharge his gun whenever he sees cats and dogs? What if there is a kid who happens to be playing in the area?" a resident asked.

When asked for comment, PAWS president Katie Busenkell said they "would like to see the Legislature pass a law that makes killing a dog in this manner and setting illegal."

Busenkell said it is their understanding that the dog belonged to someone and did not pose a threat to anyone's safety.

"There is little justification for shooting the dog. It is time that the Legislature passed a law protecting animals from inhumane and/or unjustified killings. Failure to do so condones this kind of behavior," she said.

Furthermore, Busenkell said, PAWS encourages the public to contact DPS or PAWS about animal-related issues and problems.

"PAWS will attempt to address the issue or problem in a safe and humane manner so that people do not have to resort to shooting animals," she said.

600

From Page 1

make to Congress for how best to assist in the collection of these awards, it will depend on our assessment, in consultation with the CNMI Attorney General's Office and the Department of Labor, of how much of the outstanding amount is uncollectible," Benedetto said.

He said he expects the numbers will show that a lot of unpaid judgments are owed by judgment-proof debtors like those who left the island long ago or are bankrupt, or who don't have any assets to collect.

Given the age of many of the unpaid judgments, Benedetto said it is unlikely that the bonding companies will have been given proper notice of a potential claim at the time the complaint was filed. This means that the only source available to collect from is the Commonwealth Alien Deportation Fund, he said.

However, Benedetto said it is unlikely that many workers will be able to get much relief from the Deportation Fund, for some reasons.

First, he pointed out, Public Law 11-66 authorized the use of the Deportation Fund to compensate alien workers whose employers and bonding companies left them holding unpaid administrative awards, but limited the amount they could recover to $3,000, and they will only get the money as they depart the CNMI.

Another reason, Benedetto said, is that the Deportation Fund's primary purpose is to locate and deport illegal aliens, overstaying tourists and business permit holders, and the dependent children of deportees.

"So a lot of the Fund is used up each year by the Division of Immigration in accomplishing those tasks. There is not always a lot left over to use to compensate workers with unpaid administrative awards," he said.

The third reason, Benedetto said, is the limited Deportation Fund's assets. The Fund is financed by a $25 contribution from the initial application fee and each annual renewal for every nonresident worker within the Commonwealth. This means that the total amount for each of the past few years is between $500,000 to $750,000 only, the ombudsman said.

One of the more notable cases relating to unpaid judgments involve Buddhi Lal Dhimal, a Nepalese security guard who set himself on fire at the Department of Labor on April 24, 2007. Labor had awarded him $2,024.08 in unpaid wages and liquidated damages after he filed a complaint against his employer, Lucky Security Service. He has not managed to collect a penny of that judgment. He later died at St. Luke Hospital in the Philippines as a result of his burn injuries.

On Dec. 19, 2007, the Ombudsman's Office collected about 300 administrative awards. Many of them cover more than one worker.

There were six cases alone that represent $6 million in administrative awards.

Benedetto earlier said that his office will come up with a set of recommendations on how best to assist the workers, depending on how much of the money is owed by solvent employers or bonding companies that are supposed to cover the wage awards.

The U.S. Congress has expressed interest in finding out how much money is owed guest workers who were given administrative awards by the CNMI Department of Labor.

"The U.S. Congress is very concerned that workers may return to their home countries without getting the money that they have been awarded by the Department of Labor," Benedetto said.

He said this is the reason why his office is collecting the information pertaining to administrative orders that awarded guest workers unpaid wages and other damages.

Freshmen lawmakers top poll spending

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two first-time lawmakers have topped the campaign expenses of Sen. Rota A. Manglona, who was reported previously to be the Nov. 3 election's biggest spender.

Representatives-elect Ralph DLG Torres and Victor Hocog needed $48,300 and $43,900 to win their first terms in the Legislature. The pair also received the largest contributions, amounting to $48,700 and $44,300 respectively.

Manglona, who topped the spenders' list when the filing deadline closed on Dec. 24, poured in $37,660 on his campaign. He now comes behind fellow Rota delegate Hocog in terms of campaign spending.

Torres

Hocog

Torres and Hocog filed their campaign finance reports on the extended deadlines given them, which were Dec. 27 and Dec. 28, respectively.

As of Jan. 8, all but two candidates in the midterm election candidates have filed their campaign finance reports. They are reelected Rep. Edwin Aldan of Tinian and outgoing Rep. Jacinta Kaipat. The Commonwealth Election Commission had granted Aldan until Jan. 4 to file, and Kaipat until Jan. 8. But they failed to meet the extended deadline.

Representative-elect Joseph James Camacho was the second biggest spender, using $27,597 of the $27,671 in the campaign contributions he received.

Other top campaign spenders were Saipan Sen. Luis Crisostimo, $23,618; Representative-elect Diego T. Benavente, $21,338; Claudio K. Norita, $15,998; Representative-elect Joseph Reyes, $13,836; and Ramon S. Dela Cruz, $13,119.

A total of 74 candidates are covered by the filing requirement.

The statement of account must show details of any contribution worth at least $500 received during the election period. Contributions include any monetary or in-kind support issued to a candidate to help his or her political bid.

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Man gets five months for stealing $19K

By FERDIE DELA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday handed down a five-month prison term against a man who pleaded guilty to stealing $19,183.26 from the sales collection of a company.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Arnel Ruga Del Rosario to five years in prison, all suspended except for five months.

Manglona gave Del Rosario credit for the two days that he has already served in jail. The judge ordered the defendant to start serving the sentence on Feb. 1, 2008. After prison, Del Rosario will be placed on four years and seven months of probation.

Manglona ordered the defendant to pay the victim, Beijing Wholesale, $19,183.26 in restitution.

She also required the defendant to pay a $100 court assessment fees and $100 annual probation fees, and perform 200 hours of community work service.

Manglona said the prison term and probation sentence is appropriate to punish Del Rosario for what he did and also to give him a chance to pay the victim.

The Attorney General's Office and the Public Defender's Office waived the presentation of evidence and did not argue as to the terms of the sentencing.

The 43-year-old Del Rosario apologized to the people of the Commonwealth and to the victim for committing the crime.

Del Rosario said he stole the money because he had to help his mother who was then under medication. He said he is aware, however, that helping his ailing mother was not an excuse to commit crimes.

Del Rosario pleaded guilty to theft by failure to make required disposition of funds.

Under the plea agreement, the sentence would be five years in prison, all suspended except for a period of zero to two years.

Del Rosario was charged with theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received and theft by unlawful taking. The defendant pleaded guilty to the first count. The second count was dismissed as the parties agreed.

According to court papers, on and between June 2006 and November 2006, Del Rosario would collect payment on invoices due Beijing Wholesale in Gualo Rai from various companies.

The defendant, who was then an employee of Beijing Wholesale, would not submit those payments to his employer.

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Urinating on Japanese tourist hits Fiji tourism sector badly

By MICHAEL FIELD
FAIRFAX MEDIA

An incident in which a Fijian soldier urinated on a Japanese woman on a plane has ended up doing "untold damage" to Fiji, the country's main daily says in a strongly worded editorial yesterday.

It was commenting after the international carrier Air Pacific published its annual report saying its Fiji-Japan route was performing poorly and was struggling.

The report made no mention of the incident in March last year when a drunk Fiji soldier on a flight from Japan exposed himself and then urinated on a Japanese woman in her seat.

The incident made major headlines in Japan.

In its editorial today the *Fiji Times* said it was an "appalling incident" that was an urgent reminder to every person in this country.

"This unforgivable offense has caused untold damage in Japan a market which Fiji has strived for decades to cultivate," the newspaper said.

"All it takes is one moment of stupidity to paint a black picture of this nation and her people in a lucrative market. The incident has generated widespread, negative publicity at a time when we need it the least."

The newspaper said the whole country had to "share in the shame he has brought upon his uniform and to this country".

"Urinating on a tourist on an international flight is a high-profile incident which gains global notoriety.

"It is a brief moment which brings unwanted exposure and deprives the economy of millions of dollars in revenue."

The newspaper said every day Fiji citizens "commit dastardly acts which have a direct impact on tourism."

This includes people throwing trash out of buses and cars and taxi drivers cheating visitors.

"They charge exorbitant prices, claiming that somehow visitors and locals pay different fares."

At the airport tourists are greeted by guitar strumming men in traditional Fijian garb, singing local melodies and shouting a loud "bula".

"But just a few steps down the arrivals hall are a bunch of usual grumpy immigration officers with the annoying national habit of chewing gum while at work. This is not the welcome to paradise that tourists hope to receive.

"On the list of visitor turn-offs are the shop assistants and sword sellers who rudely hassle tourists in an effort to gain quick sales."

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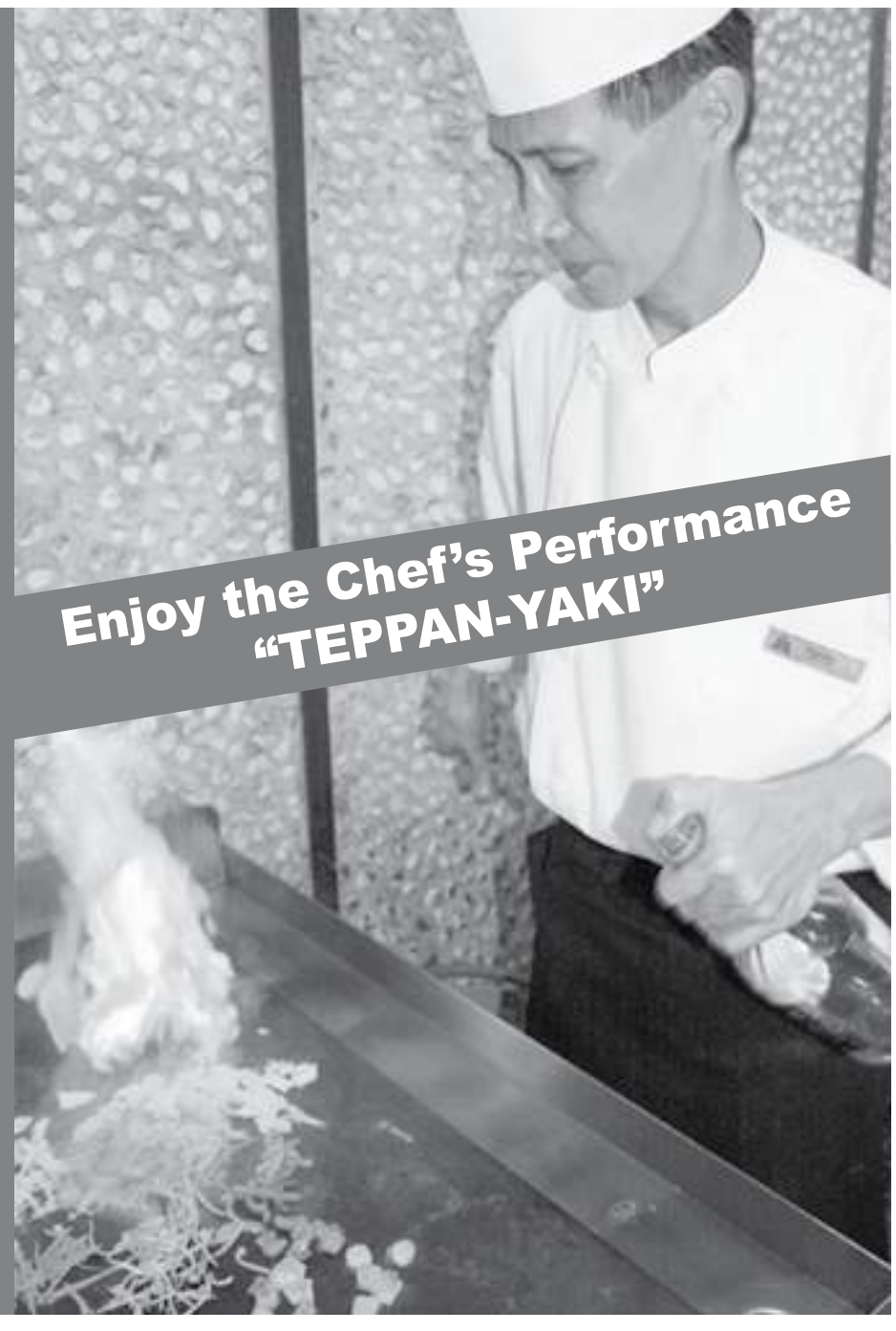

Lower Base power engine breaks down

A base load generator at Saipan's Power Plant I experienced problems Tuesday night with its auxiliary exhaust system.

Power plant mechanics worked through the night and all day yesterday to make critical repairs. A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. notice received yesterday afternoon at 4:52pm said the repairs are not yet complete.

Alternate engines are being used in all power plants to compensate for the loss of energy production. However, consumer demand for energy remained high yesterday, causing limited and isolated power outages in As Lito, Koblerville, and through the northern grid.

Of the eight power engines in Lower Base, only four are working. With the breakdown of one engine, the plant is left with three working engines.

Had customer demand remained high last night and the combined power plants were not able to produce enough energy, CUC was planning two-hour rotating outages affecting Lower Base to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, Marpi, at Mt Carmel south, parts of Susupe, south Chalan Kanoa, Talafofo, As Teo, Papago and Kagman I, II, III.

These outages will not be necessary should there be conservation throughout Saipan. The power plant will only trip off a feeder when or as customer demand becomes too high. ***(CUC)***

Center for diabetic eye care opens tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be hosted by Marianas Eye Institute tomorrow to open its Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care.

According to chief executive officer Russ Quinn, Marianas Eye Institute has been concerned that diabetes is the No. 1 cause for blindness in the CNMI and has the third-highest per capita rate in the world.

"With this in mind, Marianas Eye Institute has invested in new technologies that allow for individuals to receive world class treatment right here in Saipan. Marianas Eye Institute's state-of-the-art facility has always strived to bring the latest technologies to the people of the CNMI," he said.

Quinn added that with a mission of providing "Excellence with Love," Marianas Eye Institute has not only invested in new technologies, but has also invested in training local residents in the profession of ophthalmic assistants, receiving national certification credentials.

"Whether it's getting a pair of eyeglasses in their in-office optical laboratory, contact lens fittings, advanced medical eye care, state-of-the-art cataract surgery or laser, Marianas Eye Institute demonstrates its commitment to the people of the CNMI with this new investment in the Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care," he added.

Going on its 10th year in the CNMI, Marianas Eye Institute is a regional leader in eye care providing total eye care for the family. Services include express glasses and contact lenses, refractive therapy, medical eye care, surgery and laser. Interested clients can contact them at 235-9090.

Municipal Council wants center for women leaders

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Ninth Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council is sharing with Gov. Benigno Fitial and Sen. Pete Reyes its vision for the creation of the first Center for Women in Business and Community Leadership on Saipan.

According to council chair Marian DLG. Tudela, the center's mission would be to provide the necessary resources for women to engage in and be successful entrepreneurs in the private sector.

Through the proposed center, Tudela said, "women can become advocates for the advancement of women in public leadership positions and dedicated to parity in employment for women as well as the provision of affordable child care facilities and an advocate for improving the health and well-being of women and families on Saipan."

She said the center would also allow women to become front-liners for the elimination of violence against women.

"Through regular public dialogue and education, policy forums and empowerment professional development trainings, the prejudices inhibiting the participation of women could be articulated and better understood and timely addressed in public policies," said Tudela.

She added that the center would also include business coaching and leadership development that will enhance the performance, profits and productivity of women in small to mid-sized companies.

"We [Municipal Council] envision a community of thriving women-owned businesses on Saipan," Tudela said.

Tudela said the Municipal Council is asking Fitial and Reyes for a briefing and a response on the subject, as well as their endorsement of the project.

"Perhaps, as a first step in moving forward with the idea would be to identify an interim place and location for the center," Tudela said.

A preferred place, she added, would be in an existing and related agency, office, or department, "if not a place of its own in a central location such as in one of the vacant MIHA houses behind the Garapan Elementary School," Tudela said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC alumni meeting today

Graduates and former students of the Northern Marianas College are invited to participate in the establishment of the NMC Alumni Association.

The NMC Alumni Association will be involved in organizing several community events that promote the college's mission, including pursuing professional development opportunities for NMC alumni, organizing large-scale events for scholarship fundraising, and networking opportunities.

The general meeting for all NMC alumni (those who have graduated with NMC degrees or those who have earned at least 24 NMC academic credits) will be held at 6pm today, Jan. 10, 2008, at the Student Center Bldg. J. Officers will be elected at this meeting.

NMC alumni who are able to attend the inaugural meeting will qualify for a fee waiver for one transcript request. Refreshments will be provided. ***(NMC)***

MMAC Team Captain's meeting

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is inviting all previous and interested MMAC Team Captains or their representatives to attend the Team Captains' meeting on Monday, Jan. 14, 2008, at 5:30pm at the Aquarius Beach Tower, for the 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer.

If you or anyone you know has been affected by cancer, make the time and effort to attend this meeting as the 2008 MMAC is coming soon and the support of the community is vital in the battle against this terrible affliction. For more information, e-mail Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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Tinian road project remains in limbo

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Sen. Jude V Hofschneider has followed up with the Department of Public Works on the status of the Route 202 road project on Tinian, which has remained in limbo for about three years now.

In a letter to Public Works Secretary Jose S. Demapan, Hofschneider followed up on a prior discussion about the project, saying he has received "overwhelming concerns" regarding the current conditions of the road.

"If I may recall correctly, this project was initially introduce almost three years ago and the progress is taking much too long than it should be," Hofschneider said.

He said the bad condition of the road is one that the people of Tinian had to endure for far too long.

"These conditions worsen especially during the rainy seasons and also the dry season brings clouds of dust from passing vehicles, which makes it a health hazard to the community," said Hofschneider.

The *Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from Demapan but he has not returned calls made to his office as of press time.

Hofschneider said that the project's quickest completion would bring welcome relief to motorists, businesses and property owners along the route.

Hofshneider is asking Demapan to make the Route 202 road project DPW's top priority.

"As you know, this is a very important village thoroughfare with a high volume of traffic," Hofschneider stated.

He is also offering DPW help from his office to expedite the completion of the project.

The reconstruction of Route 202 with drainage improvements will involve reconstructing the existing 1-mile roadway from the intersection of Broadway Avenue to the Tinian Seaport to upgrade the pavement.

The project, along with other projects, has been in the review process between DPW and the Federal Highway Administration in Hawaii to ensure all requirements have been met prior to receiving authorization to proceed.

The project would include excavation and backfilling, placement of a subbase and base course, and paved shoulders, including some curbs and gutters. The projects will also include improvements to the drainage, concrete swales, ponding basins, and pavement markers.

PTI bills to feature revised format and a new due date

The PTI telephone bills coming to you soon will have a few changes in format and due dates.

Pacific Telecom Inc. said yesterday that their new bills will feature an improved and easy-to-read format. The due dates have also been changed. The new due date for residential and business customers is now Jan. 14.

"We know our customers will be pleased when they get to see their new bill", said Darrell Fair, PTI's Customer Service manager. "We are happy that the new bill is here. We listened to our customers who asked for an easier to understand billing statement."

Also new this month, all Saipan Shell stations will now accept PTI bill payments using cash or credit cards. "We wanted to make bill payment more convenient by offering our customers more locations with nighttime and weekend hours," Fair said. Payments can also be made at Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, Bank of Saipan and First Hawaiian Bank.

For customers who would like the convenience of paperless billing, PTI offers an easy-to-use online billing system. For more information, please call PTI Customer Care at 682-4PTI or www.pticom.com. ***(PTI)***

SPLASH ISLAND JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Child tourists spend their afternoon frolicking on the Siheky Splash Pool of the Pacific Islands Club.

Judiciary holds seminar for NMI's freshmen lawmakers

The Commonwealth Judiciary will conduct "*The Law and the Freshman Legislator*" program for the Commonwealth's newly elected legislators at the Guma' Hustisia today, Jan. 10, 2008.

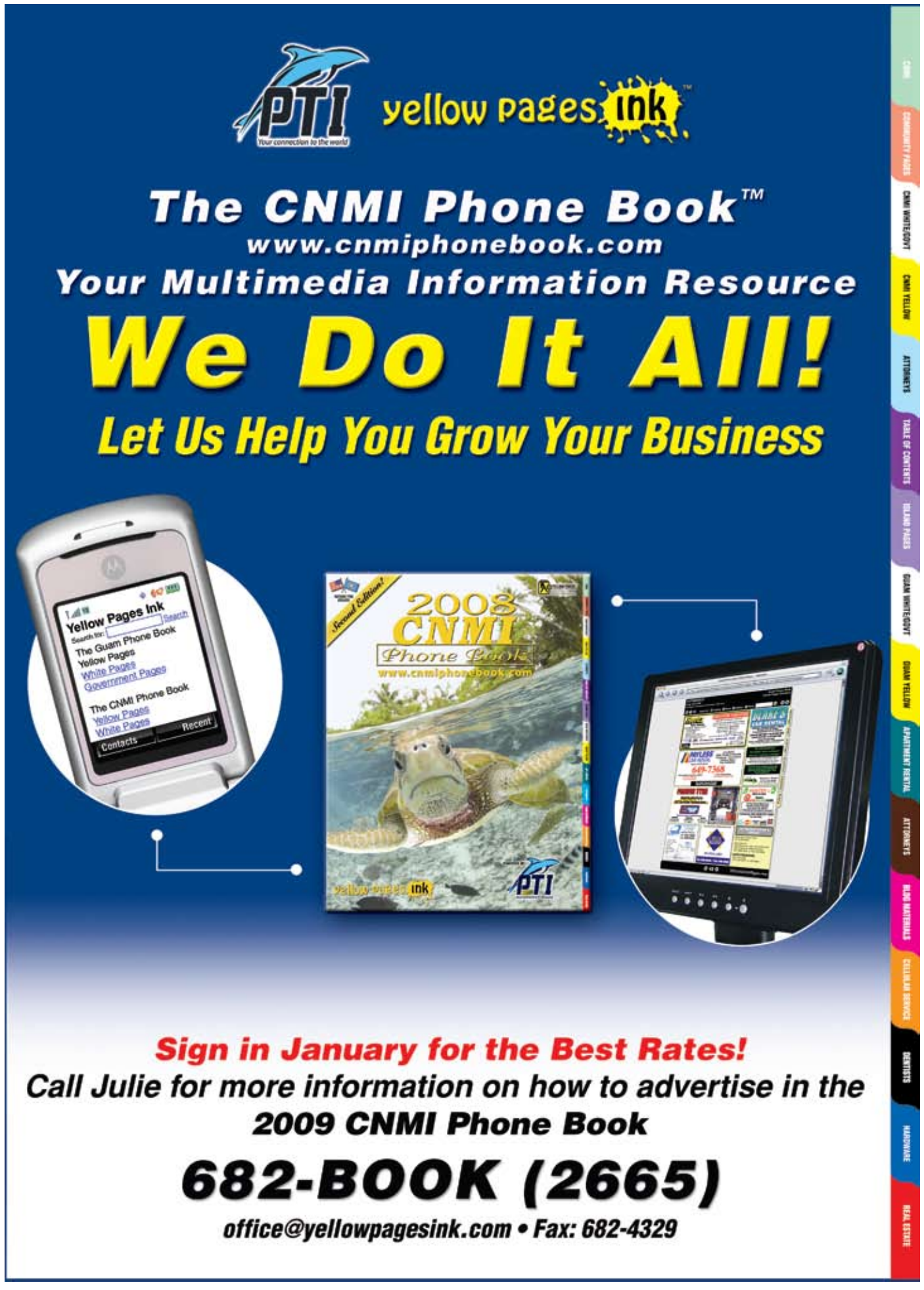
It will be the third biennial program sponsored by the judiciary and the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society.

The first program began in January 2004, and the participating lawmakers highly recommended conducting this program after each election.

At this year's event, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Associate Justices Alexandro C. Castro and John A. Manglona, Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona, and Naomi Lujan-Gonzales, the executive director of the Law Revision Commission, will lead a series of discussions focusing on the new lawmakers' dynamic role in the Legislature and their interaction with the judiciary.

This year's topics include an overview of the Covenant, the United States and Commonwealth Constitutions, the role of the courts, an overview of common law, statutory interpretation, and the basics of legal research.

At the end of the program, the new legislators will have an opportunity to interact with the justices and judges at a roundtable discussion. The lawmakers will have a chance to discuss a wide range of issues that are of interest to them. ***(PR)***



Census takes farming industry's pulse

By JERRY PERKINS
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

It's the 2007 Census of Agriculture, coming soon to mailboxes on rural routes all over the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Dating to 1790, the ag census is a government effort to take the pulse of agriculture every five years.

Thick packets of census forms, looking a bit like tax booklets, were mailed Dec. 28. Farmers are required by law to return their census forms by Feb. 4.

Joseph Prusacki, director of the Iowa field office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, said there are good reasons for farmers to spend the time enumerating the number of hogs, cattle, corn and soybeans they raise.

"It might be difficult for farmers to see how the census of agriculture impacts them, but many government farm policies are based on the information contained in the census," Prusacki said. "This is the only place you can find these kinds of statistics on the county level."

Agribusinesses and others also need to know what is out there in farm country. For example, an implement company can find out how many tractors are in a particular county and use the information in its business planning.

The USDA will compile the information gathered in the 2007 census by December 2008 and release it in electronic and print formats in February 2009, Prusacki said.

The census is meant to cover all farms, defined by the Department of Agriculture as any entity with $1,000 in annual sales or potential sales.

"If you have a few acres with some horses and goats, guess what?" Prusacki said. "You're a farm."

That low-ball definition of a farm means about 3.2 million surveys will go to farmers in the United States and its territories.

"We're getting names from other USDA agencies and from producer groups," Prusacki said. "Just about any source we can."

The census wants its questions answered by farm operators, meaning those who farm the land, Prusacki said. It is not interested in hearing from farmland owners if they don't run the farm enterprise.

For the first time, farmers will have the option of completing and filing their 2007 questionnaire online.

Prusacki estimated it should take about 50 minutes to fill out the 24-page survey sent to diversified farms and 35 minutes for the 12-page survey sent to row crop farms.

Questions asked by the census are updated every five years to reflect changes in farming. This year's survey has added a section on organic agriculture, which has shown rapid growth since 2002, when there were two questions asked about organic farming.

The 2007 survey also seeks more detail on government payments received by farmers and the types of payments received.

In another new section, producers can answer "yes" or "no" to questions about Internet access, electrical generation on the farm or other practices.

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Saipan Tribune

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 10, 2001

House joins fight against abortion

In a strong statement advocating pro-life, the House of Representatives is set to adopt a resolution supporting a month-long campaign by various church organizations on the islands against abortion. The House leadership will be part of the efforts to raise awareness in the community on the need to safeguard the life on a mother's womb, according to House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta. Different church groups have joined hands to mark January as "Celebration of Life Month" with various activities, including a prayer vigil and a march to be held next weekend.

Police probes shareholders of firm in savings racket

Police investigators are set to begin questioning the remaining shareholders of Long City Traders Corp. to shed light on the savings scam that victimized hundreds of garment factory workers on the island. This developed as Kwan Y. Chung, 53, the biggest shareholder of Long City Traders, has reportedly fled Saipan. Long City Traders is a jewelry shop that also offers financial services. Garment factory workers were duped into depositing their money to the company in exchange for higher interest rate. Due to the huge number of garment factory workers who were victimized by the savings scam, police gave out questionnaires to the garment establishments to be distributed to their employees to facilitate the gathering of information, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Rose Ada.

JANUARY 10, 2002

Pierce shuns conditional lifting of hiring ban

Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano's proposal to raise the CNMI's minimum wage in exchange for the lifting of the moratorium on the hiring of nonresident workers is a "recipe for disaster." Thus said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Richard Pierce, who added that the Chamber has already made clear its positions on both the moratorium issue and the increase in wage levels in the CNMI. "The Chamber wants the moratorium lifted and we are against any real cost in the operations of our businesses at this time," said Pierce. "I believe that [Adriano's] idea to exchange increased costs to businesses in exchange for the lifting of the moratorium is a 'recipe for disaster.'"

Wanted: Federal security directors for US airports

The United States Department of Transportation disclosed yesterday that it has started recruiting federal security directors who will oversee security operations in various airports across America. US-DOT Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said the hiring of federal security directors who will oversee security at the nation's top airports as part of the new Transportation Security Administration has begun. He said a federal security director will lead security operations at each airport, including passenger and baggage and cargo screening, as well as protection of aircraft and secured airport areas.

JANUARY 10, 2003

$1M disaster checks out

Good news to Rota residents: Federal disaster checks are already out in the mail. The Federal Emergency Management Agency disclosed yesterday that it has released checks amounting to over $1 million in individual assistance to Rota residents. The money is part of the over $1.4 million that FEMA has already approved for release to Rota residents for housing and other needs assistance, said FEMA public information officer Josie Pritchard. Of this amount, FEMA has granted some $656,000 for housing assistance, while other needs assistance has already reached $760,000.

Chamber backs reduced work-hour bill

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly supports and endorses the proposed legislative initiative to reduce local CNMI government expenditures by reducing the number of hours of service provided by government employees. Chamber president Richard A. Pierce said that, since he assumed the Chamber post, we have been pleading with the local government authorities to look at its largest expenditure cost, its payroll." Pierce added that the Chamber understands the political ramifications of a move like this, "but we cannot stress enough the admiration we hold for those House members that have proposed this measure to rescue the government from financial insolvency."

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Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Global justice on trial

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, whose war crimes trial at The Hague got under way Monday, is the first African head of state to face an international court. It couldn't have happened to a meaner guy.

Taylor is just one in a depressingly long line of deposed African leaders who bled their countries dry in brutal wars against their own people and plundered their national treasuries. Yet while most of his fellow vampires have died in luxurious exile, Taylor finds himself in a detention center in Holland, stalking quarters formerly occupied by ex-Yugoslavian strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

Unfortunately, Taylor seems to have studied the stalling tactics of the detention center's former tenant all too well. Milosevic turned his trial into such a drawn-out farce that he ended up expiring of a heart attack before he could be brought to justice. Taylor, who is believed to have stolen millions if not billions of dollars during his tenure as president from 1997 to 2003, is claiming to be broke; the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone is thus reportedly shelling out about $100,000 a month to pay for his defense. The trial was supposed to get started in June but had to be delayed after Taylor and his lawyers boycotted the proceedings, saying they hadn't been given adequate time to prepare.

Prosecutors won't lack for evidence against Taylor. He is on trial not for the circus of murder in Liberia for which he was ringmaster during his presidential term—a conflict that shocked the world as child soldiers loyal to Taylor, high on amphetamines and other drugs, charged into battle naked or wearing women's ball gowns—but for his role in the gruesome civil war in next-door Sierra Leone that ended in 2003. (Liberia opted to deal with its past through a truth and reconciliation commission rather than war crimes trials, so Taylor is being tried by Sierra Leone instead of his home country.)

Taylor is believed to have supported rebel groups in Sierra Leone in exchange for "blood diamonds" plundered from that country. The Sierra Leone conflict was another nightmare of senseless mayhem, with thousands of children left mutilated by bandits who cut off their limbs with machetes simply to terrorize the population. Some of these victims will be among the 140-plus witnesses expected to testify against Taylor; also expected to appear is a former regime insider said to have key information about Taylor's connection to Sierra Leone militias.

It is vitally important that Taylor's trial be conducted in an exemplary fashion, with professional treatment of all evidence and the defense accorded every opportunity to present its case. The trial could send an extremely powerful message to despots the world over, proving that the world will no longer tolerate their atrocities. Or it could be just another disappointing failure for a struggling international justice system.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

"...AND THEN, JUST LIKE THAT, NO ONE GAVE A HOOT ABOUT WHAT IOWANS THOUGHT..."
CARE TO DISCUSS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY?
OINK
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Thanks doctor for curing my apathy

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at rikv@bizresults.org

Three things sought by all individuals are freedom, peace, and prosperity. People desire these three basic needs, both individually and nationally; yet all three are rarely realized by most of the world's population.

After earning their independence, the American Founding Fathers carefully scrutinized every system of government in existence to develop one that would best make it possible for their people to attain freedom, peace, and prosperity. The Founders realized the frailty of man to exploit power, enslave people through poverty, and then establish themselves as maleficent benefactors to their serfs.

From their desire and commitment, the Constitution was written as a living document to outline the basic principles and inalienable rights of people to enjoy liberty, and pursue happiness and prosperity. The Founders urged their descendents and successors to not allow the Constitution to be altered by usurpation or twisted interpretation. Any changes were to be adopted through a careful amendment process.

Fast-forward more than two hundred years and the Founder's worst fears have been realized as the pristine pages of the Constitution have been weathered through neglect and twisted interpretation. Even though military recruits, politicians, Supreme Court justices and the president of the United States all take an oath to "uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States," some only see it as a "piece of paper."

Along comes Congressman Ron Paul, who is running for president this year, and he has a novel idea to only support issues that are outlined in the Constitution. He believes the D.C. politics-as-usual has been detrimental to the country and by restoring the luster of the Constitution as a guiding document, America will realize greater freedom, peace, and prosperity. Let's take a look at the three concepts and how it might affect you.

Freedom. Even though there may be major disagreements about many issues that Dr. Paul stands for, the single thing that holds all of his supporters together is their love for liberty. He is vigorously opposed to the consolidation of executive power and the resulting erosion of civil liberties that we have witnessed in recent years. He believes in limited government and returning many of the rights that the federal government has taken away.

"When you sacrifice liberty for security, you lose both." Paul believes that's what's happening today and he would reduce federal controls and return much of the power back to the individual states.

Peace. A Paul presidency would guarantee an end to the U.S. involvement in the Iraq War. Ron Paul feels it is a mistake that the U.S. declared war on Iraq without approval from Congress, and rather than try to "save face" at the cost of more lives, he would bring the troops in Iraq and many of the 500,000-plus troops stationed around the world back home to protect our borders. Interestingly, he has strong support from military personnel, and much of the $20 million in donations he's received has been from military families.

Prosperity. Not many realize the incredibly precarious position the U.S. economy is in right now. Dr. Paul seems to be the only candidate who understands the looming currency disaster we are facing and who has a plan to stabilize our currency. He believes the fiat Federal Reserve notes (what we call "money") has devalued the dollar by "printing" paper money without having anything to back it up (i.e. gold or silver).

He also seems to be the only candidate that is gravely concerned about the $9.2 trillion deficit that continues to grow, and he would pay it down, primarily from the money that is currently spent on wars. The U.S. pays the Fed (a private corporate monopoly that is no more "federal" than Federal Express) billions of dollars each year on the debt's interest. For this and many other reasons, he advocates gradual elimination of the Federal Reserve central bank and its collection arm to help them get their interest money – the IRS.

The national debt does not reflect what the federal government has promised to pay millions of Americans in entitlement benefits down the road. "Those future obligations put our real debt figures at roughly 50 trillion dollars – a staggering sum that is about as large as the total household net worth of the entire United States… Your share of this fifty trillion amounts to about $175,000." Congressman Ron Paul, March 6, 2007

Government spending would be drastically reduced by eliminating many federal government agencies, and scaling back the federal budget. He would raise funds to support the federal government through excise taxes and uniform, non-protectionist tariffs.

There are some areas that we have questions about if Paul became president; however, he stands out if freedom, peace, and prosperity are used as a measuring stick against the other candidates. Trust is another thing that makes him exceptional. While all of the other candidates have flip-flopped in varying degrees on their positions, Paul has remained steadfastly consistent, and seems to speak from his principles.

Given the state of the country, all three points discussed above are critical and solely being addressed by Congressman Paul. After being disillusioned with U.S. politics and politicians who don't uphold their oath of office to defend the Constitution, I see new hope with someone who can make a difference and restore the Constitution to its original luster. Thanks Dr. Paul for curing my apathy.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Confidence in America: The best change the next president can make

By MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
Special to The Washington Post

The writer was secretary of state from 1997 to 2001. She is the author of the forthcoming book Memo to the President Elect: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership.

I believe the most precious gift the next president could bestow upon America is an end to the politics of fear.

Fear, of course, has its place. Seven decades ago, the world did not fear Hitler enough. Today, Iraq remains a powder keg, Afghanistan a struggle, Iran a potential danger and North Korea a puzzle not yet solved. Pakistan combines all the elements that give us an international migraine. Al-Qaida and its offshoots deserve our most urgent attention, because when people say they want to kill us, we would be fools not to take them at their word.

Still, we have had an overdose of fear in recent times.

We have been told to be afraid so that we might be less protective of our Constitution, less mindful of international law, less respectful toward allies, less discerning in our search for truth and less rigorous in questioning what our leaders tell us. We have been exhorted by the White House to embrace a culture of fear that has driven and narrowed our foreign policy while poisoning our ability to communicate effectively with others.

One manifestation of fear is an unwillingness to think seriously about alternative perspectives. America's standing in the world has been in free fall these past few years because our country is perceived as trying to impose its own reality—to fashion a world that is safe and comfortable for us with little regard for the views of anyone else.

I love America deeply and I believe our country is still the best in the world, but I also believe we have developed a dangerous lack of self-awareness. No nukes, we say, while possessing the world's largest arsenal. Respect the law, we demand, while disregarding the Geneva Conventions. You're with us or against us, we declare, while ignoring the impact of our actions on Turkey and the Middle East. Hands off Iraq, we warn, while our troops occupy Baghdad. Beware China's military, we cry, while spending as much on defense as the rest of the world combined. Honor the future, we preach, while going AWOL on climate change.

We need to do a better job of seeing ourselves as others do. It strikes the world as ludicrous that we—with all our wealth and power—seem so afraid of terrorists, rogue states, illegal immigrants and foreign economic competition. People put themselves in our shoes and expect us to act with confidence, and so we should, but true confidence is shown by a willingness to enter into difficult debates, answer criticism, treat others with respect and do our share or more in tackling global problems. Confidence harnessed to purpose is what America at its best has been all about.

We are 4 percent of a planet that is half Asian, half poor, one-third Muslim and by and large far more familiar with recent American actions than with our country's past accomplishments. To many, the Bush administration is America. Our reputation is in disrepair. We will not recover by acting out of fear but by educating ourselves about the world around us, learning foreign languages, appreciating other faiths, studying the many dimensions of historical truth, harnessing modern technology to constructive ends and looking beyond simplistic notions of evil and good.

I pray that the next president, when taking the oath of office, will have uppermost in mind not the need to scare us but, rather, the need to restore our faith in the American idea. That idea is based on our sense of unity and our commitment to one another. That idea is grounded in belief in democracy and burnished by our sense of responsibility to generations past and still to come. This is the glue that enabled us to overcome partisan political differences in earlier decades and to keep our nerve in the face of adversaries far more potent than those we face today. Combine faith in our traditions with the confidence to search for value in others, and we will have a far stronger platform for American leadership than any appeal to fear.

Candidates need to get serious about Pakistan

By JAMES P. PINKERTON
Special to Newsday

Pinkerton is a columnist for Newsday*. His e-mail address is jim@jamesppinkerton.com.*

"Iowa picks corn, New Hampshire picks presidents," goes the old Granite State-boosting saying. We shall see.

But in the meantime, the presidential wheat is being separated from the chaff, to change the metaphor.

And amid the excitement of the presidential horse races, we might pause over just one of the urgent challenges that the 44th president will confront—and sadly, in terms of policy, there's plenty of chaff, not much wheat.

Pakistan, for example, is home to at least 75 nuclear weapons. It is also a next-door neighbor to Iran and Afghanistan.

Which is to say, it's an important place, worthy of serious discussion, not just cheap sloganeering. And we have already seen the results of foreign-policy fecklessness: the assassination of Benazir Bhutto on Dec. 27. Her killing was more than a tragedy; it was a blunder.

And it was a blunder that bridged party lines. In the past few months top Republicans and Democrats in the executive and legislative branches had reached a seeming consensus on Pakistan policy: Praise Bhutto and root for her political comeback, while demanding that President Pervez Musharraf allow "free elections."

Yet, nobody in Washington seems to have thought through the basics of this policy. For example, was Bhutto in any way capable of carrying out the pro-American policies she pledged while swanning her way through the salons of Manhattan and Georgetown?

And of course, nobody here thought through how to keep her safe there.

Now Bhutto is dead, Musharraf is still in charge and who knows about the next election? Can there even be an election in a country perpetually on the brink of civil strife, maybe even civil war?

But in the meantime, leading U.S. presidential candidates continue to talk big, as if recent events demonstrate just how easy it is for America to have its way in Pakistan.

First, during the ABC News Democratic debate on Saturday night, Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico said he would ask Musharraf to "step aside," assuring the obviously skeptical moderator, Charles Gibson, that "we have the leverage to do that."

Now we might ask: How would President Richardson pull off that kind of leveraging? The Pakistanis treasure their independence as much as we do; one of the reasons why they built all those A-bombs is that they were tired of being pushed around by foreigners.

Richardson may think that issuing public orders to foreign leaders will get him votes in America, but Americans might think about the whirlwind to be reaped in response to presidential braggadocio on foreign policy.

Second, over on the Republican side, Sen. John McCain of Arizona said on Sunday night's Fox News debate that he would "get" Osama bin Laden: "I know how to get him, and I will get him."

When pressed as to "how" by moderator Chris Wallace, McCain stuck to his guns, repeating his pledge.

A President McCain would certainly need guns, lots of them. Because, not surprisingly, such tough talk is not well received in Pakistan, where bin Laden is believed to be hiding. The headline in Monday morning's Pakistani newspaper Dawn, reacting to earlier reports of Bush administration covert-operation plans for Pakistan, declared bluntly: "Islamabad says U.S. military not welcome."

"Getting" bin Laden, wherever he might be, is a legitimate goal for America—and has been for six years—and so it would be nice, for a change, to see some genuine "command focus" on that objective.

But while nobody can doubt McCain's personal courage or dogged determination, we still must ask: Would a President McCain—or any next president—fully mobilize America for a possible confrontation with Pakistan, on top of our existing commitments and conflicts?

Specifically, Americans should wonder: Is our military big enough? Are we adequately monitoring the movement of Pakistanis into the United States?

And, oh yes, how are we doing on missile defense?

Analysis: Clinton battles back

By BETH FOUHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Editor's Note: Beth Fouhy covers presidential politics for The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A sharpened line of attack against rival Barack Obama, whom she called an agent of "false hope," appeared to help Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton battle back to an upset victory in the New Hampshire primary after last week's devastating loss in Iowa.

Clinton also may have gained traction after Obama and John Edwards joined againt her in a nationally televised debate, and when she made a surprising, and highly-publicized show of emotion, her eyes welling up as she described the toll of the long campaign.

Clinton benefited from a shift among women voters, who strongly supported the former first lady in New Hampshire after abandoning her in Iowa.

A Gallup pre-election poll had Obama 36 percent, Clinton 34 among women, but a survey of voters as they left their polling places found Clinton winning 47 percent of women compared to 34 percent for Obama. Women also voted in much larger numbers than men.

The survey was conducted for The Associated Press and the television networks.

To be sure, Obama's message of change continued to be a powerful draw from Democratic voters in the state, according to results of a survey of voters as they left their polling places. More than half said they were looking for a candidate who could bring changes, while only 20 percent said they were looking for experience. About half of those favoring change supported Obama.

But fewer young voters turned out as in Iowa, depriving Obama of crucial support. And he lost many independents to Republican John McCain, who won his party's primary in the state.

Clinton was expected to huddle with advisers Wednesday about plans going forward before returning to the campaign trail Thursday.

New Hampshire famously made Bill Clinton the "Comeback Kid" in 1992, giving him a strong second-place finish after his candidacy was nearly derailed by allegations of womanizing and efforts to evade the draft. He went on to win the Democratic nomination and the first of two terms as president that year.

His wife had a tougher go of it this time.

She received just polite applause and occasional boos at a state party fundraiser Friday night, while Obama was swamped by enthusiastic supporters. And while OBama was greeted with enormous, raucous audiences throughout the state, Clinton was left to help move chairs around at one campaign event to allow in enough people to make it appear respectably crowded.

Clinton's team has been scrambling to retool her message to be more forward looking and less nostalgic about her husband's White House years. New faces are coming aboard to help craft strategy, including longtime confidante Maggie Williams and Doug Sosnik, who served as political director for former resident Bill Clinton.

They also hope for stronger press scrutiny of Obama in the weeks going forward and are openly furious at what they perceive to have been fawning media coverage of him thus far.

Bill Clinton, who campaigned doggedly throughout New Hampshire for his wife, complained bitterly Monday that she had been unfairly treated while Obama had been given a free pass.

"The idea that one of these campaigns is positive and the other is negative when I know the reverse is true and I have seen it and I have been blistered by it for months is a little tough to take," the former president said at a campaign forum at Dartmouth College. "Just because of the sanitizing coverage that's in the media doesn't mean the facts aren't out there."

Indeed, her advisers intend to step up their scrutiny of Obama's record in the coming days and are likely to begin airing negative ads—the first in what has been a remarkably civil TV battle so far.

Letters to the Editor

Showing our gratitude

I'm writing to encourage all the guest workers of this island to be at the Legislature on Monday, Jan. 14, 10am for Tina Sablan's inauguration. She has consistently shown genuine care for us. Time and again, Tina displayed unwavering passion to fight for what is fair and right. She exemplifies humility and is always ready to give you a big warm smile.

Fellow guest workers, if you believe that Tina has done something for us then it's now our turn to show her our gratitude. I'm sure that she will appreciate seeing us there on her first official day as Representative.

I'm sure businessmen and local people who are also big supporters of Tina will be there to join us. See you there!

Irene N. Tantiado
Chinatown, Garapan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲81° ▼76°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼76°	▲81° ▼75°	▲82° ▼76

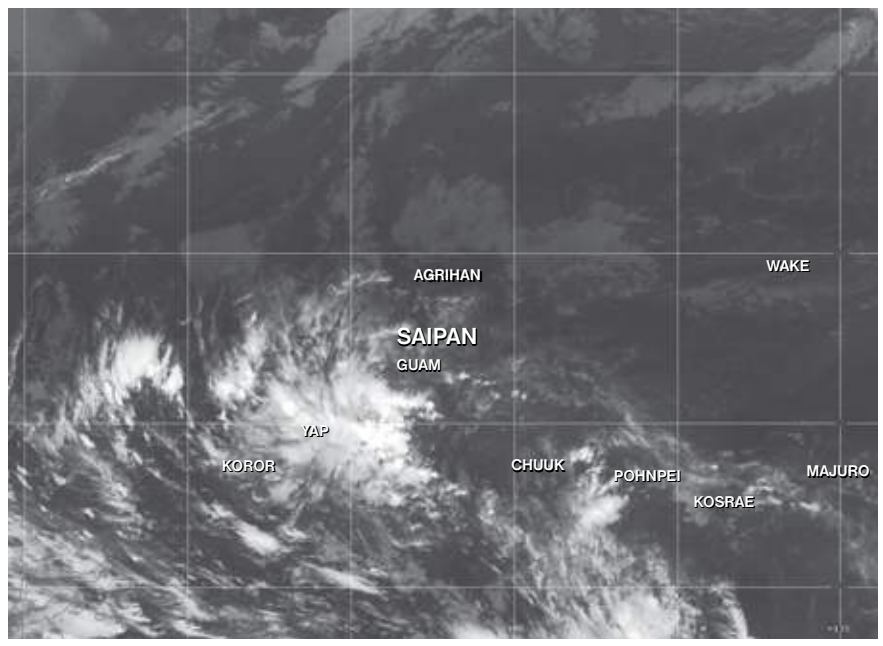
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼62
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲40	▼22
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼68
London	Showers	▲48	▼44
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲66	▼49
Manila	Cloudy	▲83	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲95	▼78
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼67
New York	Cloudy	▲47	▼38
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲48	▼36
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲45	▼44
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼39
Rome	Cloudy	▲56	▼46
Salem	Rain	▲45	▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼45
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲36	▼24
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲53	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼42

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends eastward from near 20N145E to 17N165E to 19N180 and beyond. Cloudiness, patchy light rain and embedded shower activity are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeast from 6N130E through a weak circulation centered near 6N140E to end at EQ155. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this feature are found between 2N and 11N from 130E to 146E. This area includes Koror and Yap. Trade-wind convergence over Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro is generating scattered showers between 2N and 8N from 154E to 180. Trade-wind convergence is also generating scattered showers within 75 miles of a line the extends from 11N133E to 15N134E to 14N134E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
02:52AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
10:00AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
03:22PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
08:02PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46AM	6:03PM
Friday	6:46AM	6:03PM
Saturday	6:46AM	6:04PM
Sunday	6:46AM	6:05PM
Monday	6:46AM	6:05PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	08:00AM	07:38PM
Friday	08:43AM	08:32PM
Saturday	09:23AM	09:25PM
Sunday	10:01AM	10:18PM
Monday	10:39AM	11:11PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 10, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Gold prices hit record high

NEW YORK (AP)—It's the stuff of western dramas where rugged men went looking for it in the mountains. It's the glittering metal used in fancy jewelry, the highest honors for sports and the bars tucked away in heavily secured safes. And these days, gold's appeal as a safe-haven investment has carried it to record prices.

Gold futures surged above $880 Tuesday to their highest level ever, not accounting for inflation, propelled higher by rising oil prices and a weak U.S. dollar. An ounce of gold for February delivery climbed as high as $884 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, topping by almost $10 its previous record of $875 set in 1980, and later settled at $880.30, up $18.30.

Market analysts who have watched gold's ascent weren't surprised that gold had reached a new high.

AP

In this undated file handout photo released by Newmont Mining Corporation, gold nuggets and bars are shown.

"I'm telling my friends," said Ashraf Laidi, an analyst at CMC Markets. "I've told them for the past three years to invest in gold."

Still, when adjusted for inflation, gold remains far short of the jaw-dropping levels of 28 years ago. An ounce of gold at $875 in 1980 would be worth $2,115 to $2,200 today.

Consumer borrowing up 7.4 percent

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumer borrowing rebounded in November as credit card debt shot up by the largest amount in six months.

The Federal Reserve reported Tuesday that consumer borrowing rose at an annual rate of 7.4 percent in November, far higher than the 1 percent rise in October.

The category that includes credit card debt surged at an annual rate of 11.3 percent, a six-month high, reflecting the fact that shoppers are continuing to rely heavily on their credit cards to finance purchases since home equity lines of credit have become harder to get.

The category that includes auto loans also increased in November, rising at a rate of 5.1 percent after having fallen by 3.5 percent in October.

Bush says he's watching economy closely

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush said Tuesday that he is watching very carefully to see if the struggling U.S. economy needs a short-term boost from the federal government.

Bush

"We're listening to different ideas about what may or may not need to happen," he said. "We'll work through this. We'll work through this period of time."

He wouldn't comment on any specific ideas he is considering, such as tax cuts aimed at lessening the chance of a recession. "We'll look at all different options."

On Monday, Bush talked about recent indicators that have been "increasingly mixed," a new recognition of the challenges now facing the economy, primarily resulting from a severe housing crisis. Previous Bush statements have paid attention to the financial fears of many American families and the effects of the housing slump, but focused on what he calls the strong fundamentals underpinning the economy.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cayne out as Bear Stearns CEO

NEW YORK (AP)—Bear Stearns Cos. said Tuesday that Chief Executive James "Jimmy" Cayne will give up control of the fifth-largest U.S. investment bank amid unprecedented losses from the subprime mortgage crisis. Cayne, 73, will serve as non-executive chairman, the New York-based company said in a statement. He will be succeeded as CEO by President Alan Schwartz, effective immediately. Cayne said his new role as non-executive chairman will be as an "advisory capacity" to Schwartz, and he is no longer an employee of Bear Stearns.

Housing woes, AT&T news sinks stocks

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street skidded lower in another fitful session Tuesday, with investors worried that the tumbling economy may not only cripple mortgage lenders like Countrywide Financial Corp. but also create problems for other companies like AT&T Inc. The Dow Jones industrials fell nearly 240 points. The Dow and the Standard & Poor's 500 index are down more than 5 percent so far this year and the Nasdaq composite index is down nearly 8 percent, having been pummeled since Jan. 1 due to worse-than-anticipated readings on the economy. The Dow fell 238.42, or 1.86 percent, to 12,589.07, after ratcheting up and down through the day. Broader stock indicators also sank. The S&P 500 index dropped 25.99, or 1.84 percent, to 1,390.19, and the Nasdaq, reflecting uneasiness about tech stocks after AT&T's news, declined 58.95, or 2.36 percent, to 2,440.51.

Housing outlook takes a grim turn

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shares of Countrywide Financial Corp., the nation's largest mortgage lender, sank to an all-time low Tuesday as a major homebuilder offered a grim outlook for the industry and the Bush administration signaled it is growing more concerned about rising mortgage defaults. KB Home reported a mammoth loss for the fourth quarter and said there are no indications that the housing market is stabilizing. The head of Fannie Mae, a government-sponsored mortgage lender, predicted the housing market would weaken through 2009 and said a turnaround wasn't likely until 2010.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-009

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery and installation of **School and Office Furniture for Kagman High School, Saipan**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-009" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **February 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via the following fax number: (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) business days prior to the deadline to submit bids.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 or 3035.

Bidders are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-013

The CNMI Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Desktop Computers, Notebook Computers, and Projectors for Garapan Elementary School, Saipan**.

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 8, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in separate envelope marked "IFB 08-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Nation

Obama says he's still fired up and ready

By NEDRA PICKLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NASHUA, N.H. (AP)—Barack Obama pronounced himself "still fired up and ready to go" after a second-place finish in New Hampshire's Democratic primary.

"You know, a few weeks ago no one imagined that we'd have accomplished what we did here tonight in New Hampshire," he told supporters. "For most of this campaign, we were far behind. We always knew our climb would be steep.

"But, in record numbers, you came out and you spoke up for change. And with your voices and your votes you made it clear that at this moment in this election there is something happening in America."

He congratulated Hillary Rodham Clinton on a hard-fought victory and asked the crowd to give her a round of applause.

"All the candidates in this race have good ideas and all are patriots who serve this country honorably," Obama said.

Four years ago, when ballots were cast in New Hampshire's presidential primary, hardly anyone in the United States knew the name Barack Obama. This time, bidding to become the first black president, he was in the thick of the fight with the most famous name in Democratic politics.

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., acknowledges the cheers of supporters and receives a hug from his wife, Michelle, upon arrival at his election night New Hampshire presidential primary rally at South Nashua High School in Nashua, NH., Tuesday night, Jan. 8, 2008.

Obama had hoped that a victory in Iowa would create a bandwagon that would take him through the nomination. But Tuesday night's results caught his campaign off guard.

It was hard to tell that from the cheers that went up when he and his wife, Michelle, walked into the room to loud chants of "Obama, Obama."

They approached the platform holding hands. Both applauded and waved to the crowd, then hugged and kissed briefly.

"We know the battle ahead may be long. But always remember that no matter what obstacles stand in our way, nothing can stand in the way of the power of millions of voices calling for change," Obama said.

"I am still fired up and ready to go," he said.

Building on Iowa's momentum, Obama had the feel of a winner in the days leading up to New Hampshire's primary. People lined up for blocks in towns across the state to hear him speak. Those who attended often talked about the chance to see history being made.

"I want to tell my grandkids about how I saw this campaign," said 22-year-old Emily Webster, among those at a rally at Dartmouth College on Thursday.

The excitement couldn't overcome Clinton's organization, and she revived talk of another Clinton presidency with her victory on Tuesday night. The New York senator and her husband worked to keep Obama's train from rolling to the nomination; she got choked up talking about the choice facing voters, and former President Clinton sniffed that his campaign was a "fairy tale."

Romney says he's in it for the long haul

BEDFORD, N.H. (AP)—Republican Mitt Romney, a businessman-turned-politician, will take more direct control of his presidential campaign message after failing to win either the Iowa caucuses or the New Hampshire primary, a top adviser said Tuesday.

Romney himself pledged a long fight for the GOP nomination. He held out his second-place finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire, with a victory in Wyoming wedged between, as testimony to his 50-state strategy.

"There have been three races so far. I've gotten two silvers and one gold—thank-you Wyoming," Romney said in a spartan seven-minute address conceding the race.

"On to Michigan and South Carolina and Florida and Nevada," Romney added. "I'll fight to be back here in November in those states and others."

A Romney intimate, who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid pre-empting the candidate, said the campaign was "going to take the shackles off, have him be less measured."

Romney aimed to stress that his work as a venture capitalist, Olympics CEO and Massachusetts governor leaves him better equipped than Mike Huckabee and John McCain—the winners in Iowa and New Hampshire—to compete against the eventual Democratic nominee.

Conceding Romney had been hurt by a backlash against the hard-hitting television commercials the former Massachusetts governor ran against Huckabee and McCain, the adviser said the campaign hoped to "get away from the paid media and get more of the earned media."

The shift would suggest a greater emphasis on generating newspaper, Internet and television coverage, especially in Michigan, where Romney was born and which is next on the primary calendar on Jan. 15. Romney flies to Grand Rapids, Mich., on Wednesday after a fundraiser in Boston.

Earlier in the day, Romney said he expected the nomination fight to continue through Feb. 5, when 22 states vote. "I don't think the Republican Party wants to have only one person in this contest until the very end. I expect to be one of the two that's in it to the very end," he said.

More tornadoes interrupt a warm January

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A line of thunderstorms fed by warm weather continued spinning off unusual January tornadoes Tuesday, killing a man in Arkansas and carrying a cow close to a mile.

At least three people died and hundreds evacuated because of flooding in Indiana, where more than 5 inches of rain in some areas pushed rivers and streams over their banks. Two of the victims were young children trapped in a submerged car.

A tornado that hit Appleton, Ark., rolled a doublewide mobile home off its cinder block supports, killing a man and injuring his wife. The trailer appeared to have rolled for 50 yards before smashing against a stand of trees.

"The tornado hit and just it looked like his house pretty much exploded. It was taken completely off the blocks and just tore to pieces. They were both in the wreckage," said Pope County Sheriff Jay Winters.

The twister hit about 8:40 a.m., damaging or destroying homes, chicken houses and other farm outbuildings. Damage wasn't widespread because there are few homes in the rural area, about 60 miles northwest of Little Rock in the Ozark foothills.

Kirk Killins, his girlfriend and father were heading toward his parents' house and their storm cellar when his truck was stalled against the tornado's winds.

"I had it floored and it wasn't doing nothing. I looked to my right and the hay barn and shop just disappeared," Killins said.

"I don't know how we kept from getting killed," he said. "When the truck started spinning and I saw tin flying by, I thought this was it."

Killins said the tornado picked up one of his family's cows. It survived, even though the storm "probably carried her about three-quarters of a mile," he said.

Another tornado was spotted Tuesday afternoon in northwest Tennessee. The Dyer County Sheriff's Department reported no injuries, and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency said that although a barn was destroyed and some power lines were down, there was no widespread damage.

AP

Tornado damage is visible from a blown out window on Tuesday Jan. 8, 2008 in Kenosha County, Wisc.

The National Weather Service declared tornado watches or warnings Tuesday afternoon in states including Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky. Several tornadoes were confirmed or reported Monday in Missouri, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Illinois, Oklahoma and Missouri, where two people were killed.

ACROSS THE NATION

Dairy linked to 3 deaths, miscarriage

BOSTON (AP)—At Whittier Farms dairy, the fifth-generation owners brag of the quality of their Holstein cows and still deliver milk right to your door, in glass bottles. Customers like the products because they are a hormone-free taste of old New England. But health officials now say three elderly men have died and at least one pregnant woman has miscarried since last June after drinking bacteria-contaminated milk from the dairy's plant in Shrewsbury, about 35 miles west of Boston. All were infected with listeria, which is extremely rare in pasteurized milk. It is more often found in raw foods, such as uncooked meat and vegetables, and processed foods such as soft cheeses and cold cuts.

Teen killed in tiger attack mourned

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A teenager killed by a tiger was laid to rest Tuesday at a funeral attended by two brothers also mauled in the attack at the San Francisco Zoo, though they kept their distance from the grieving family. Paul and Kulbir Dhaliwal, who along with Carlos Sousa Jr. were attacked by a 350-pound Siberian tiger that escaped from the zoo's big cat enclosure on Christmas Day, hugged Sousa's parents at the mortuary Tuesday but stayed apart from family members at the cemetery. Paul Dhaliwal, 19, had stitches and severe gashes on his head, with a scar running from his right sideburn to the back of his head. Kulbir Dhaliwal, 23, wore a hat and ski jacket at the cemetery and walked with a limp, dragging his left leg.

Pair wheel corpse to store to cash check

NEW YORK (AP)—Two men wheeled a dead man through the streets in an office chair to a check-cashing store and tried to cash his Social Security check before being arrested on fraud charges, police said. David J. Dalaia and James O'Hare pushed Virgilio Cintron's body from the Manhattan apartment that O'Hare and Cintron shared to Pay-O-Matic, about a block away, spokesman Paul Browne said witnesses told police. The men left Cintron's body outside the store, went inside and tried to cash his $355 check, Browne said. A police detective who was having lunch at a restaurant next to the check-cashing store noticed a crowd forming around Cintron's body, and called uniformed New York Police Department officers at a nearby precinct. Emergency medical technicians arrived as O'Hare and Dalaia were preparing to wheel Cintron's body into the check-cashing store. Police arrested Dalaia and O'Hare there.

Soldier: Policy on gays may be shifting

WASHINGTON (AP)—Even if no one is asking, Army Sgt. Darren Manzella has been telling anyone who'll listen that he's gay - without serious retribution so far from the military. Manzella, a medic who served in Iraq and Kuwait, has acknowledged his sexual orientation in national media interviews and again on Tuesday in a Washington news conference. "This is who I am. This is my life," said Manzella, who received a combat medical badge for his service in Iraq. "It has never affected my job performance before. I don't think it will make a difference now. And to be honest since then, I don't see a difference because of my homosexuality." Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said Manzella's case demonstrates the military is arbitrarily enforcing its "don't ask, don't tell" policy now that the country is at war.

Asia

AP

Medical staff attend to a bomb blast victim at Ragama Teaching Hospital in Ragama, about 12 kilometers (8 miles) northeast of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008.

Bomb kills Sri Lanka government minister

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A roadside bombing blamed on the Tamil Tigers killed a Sri Lankan government minister Tuesday in an attack likely to intensify the civil war already raging across this Indian Ocean island nation.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa condemned the assassination as proof of the rebel group's "continued commitment to terror and violence," and hinted the government would strike back after the insurgents' first successful assassination in 19 months.

"This sad event is a further reminder of the need to redouble our efforts to rid our country of terrorism and the use of violence to achieve political ends," he said in a statement.

Both sides in the fight routinely target the other's leaders. A government airstrike in November killed the rebels' political leader, S.P. Tamilselvan, and an attack Sunday killed a top rebel intelligence officer, Shanmuganathan Ravishankar, also known as Col. Charles.

Tuesday's bomb tore through the car carrying Nation Building Minister D.M. Dassanayake as he traveled through the Ja-Ela area, about 12 miles north of the capital, Colombo, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thousands of Filipinos honor statue in procession

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Tens of thousands of barefoot Roman Catholic devotees, seeking to atone for their sins or seek blessings, gathered for an annual religious spectacle Wednesday that honors a 401-year-old black statue of Jesus Christ. About 700 police secured the roads where the devotees, mostly men wearing maroon shirts, streamed toward downtown Quiapo church, where the statue of the Black Nazarene is kept at the altar. From the church, a replica of the revered icon is to be carried on a cart through crammed streets as the mass of people jostle to try to touch it and hurl towels to be wiped on the statue. Many believe the life-sized wooden statue, brought by Spanish missionaries from Mexico in 1606, holds mystical powers that can wash away sins or cure illnesses.

Koreans mourn, seek clues in deadly fire

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—More than 1,000 South Koreans burned incense and offered flowers for the dead Tuesday as police sought to determine what caused a fire at a cold storage warehouse that killed 40 people. The fire and accompanying explosions ripped through the nearly completed warehouse in Icheon, about 50 miles south of the capital, on Monday, spewing toxic fumes over the surrounding industrial zone. Another 10 people were injured in the blaze. The cause of the fire remained unclear but arson was not suspected.

Malaysia backtracks on Indian worker ban

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian Cabinet minister denied Tuesday that the country had frozen the recruitment of workers from India, a surprising turnaround that came after other officials read out a government order on the ban. The reported ban caught Indian officials off-guard at the end of a visit to Malaysia by India's defense minister. About 140,000 Indian migrants work in Malaysia, constituting the third largest group of foreign workers. Most take low-paying jobs as waiters, barbers and gardeners but some hold top professional posts in banks and information technology industries.

US nuclear envoy holds talks in SKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The chief U.S. nuclear envoy for North Korea met South Korea's top diplomat Wednesday to fine-tune strategy for efforts to push ahead with the communist country's nuclear disarmament. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill met Foreign Minster Song Min-soon, a U.S. Embassy official said, without giving any further details. He asked not to be named, citing what he called the private nature of the discussions at Song's official residence. The meeting came after North Korea missed a year-end deadline to disable its nuclear facilities and fully account for its nuclear programs in return for aid and political concessions from the U.S., South Korea, China, Russia.

Chinese official fired from post

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese official who put on an elaborate funeral for his mother that included erecting a massive stage and hiring a 20-piece band has been fired from his Communist Party post and demoted, a state-run newspaper report Tuesday. The China Daily said that Xie Pingfa, a highway administration director in Lufeng, Guangdong province, was removed from his Communist Party post and was demoted for violating party rules on self-discipline and integrity. Xie had arranged a funeral with his siblings that included setting up a stage more than 65 feet high to allow people in their hometown to pay tributes to his mother and a banquet with more than 100 tables.

Boy foils attempt on Maldives president

Gayoom

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A quick-thinking Boy Scout foiled an assassination attempt on the president of the Maldives on Tuesday, grabbing an attacker's knife as the man leapt from a crowd and lunged at the leader, an official said.

President Maumoon Gayoom was unhurt, but his shirt was ripped as the attacker tried a second time to stab him before being overpowered by security guards, government spokesman Mohammed Shareef said.

"One brave boy saved the president's life," he said.

Mohammed Jaisham Ibrahim, wearing his blue Maldives scout uniform with a blue kerchief, was standing in the crowd to greet Gayoom on Hoarafushi, one of the 1,190 coral islands in the Indian Ocean that make up the Maldives.

The attacker hid a knife in the Maldivian flag as he awaited Gayoom's arrival, then lunged at the president, Shareef said.

Ibrahim reached out and grabbed the blade, and he was cut on the hand, according to the government.

"There was blood on the president's shirt, but it was not his but the boy's," Shareef said.

"His wound was stitched, but later he complained that he could not move some of his fingers," Shareef said, adding the youngster was flown to the Maldives' capital, Male, for treatment.

Benazir Bhutto's son meets the media

AP

The new leader of the Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of Benazir Bhutto, speaks during a news conference at a hotel in London, Tuesday Jan. 8, 2008.

LONDON (AP)—Sweating slightly, the son of slain Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto slipped into the basement of a swanky London hotel, took his place behind a bank of microphones and looked up. Cameras flashed. He barely blinked.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari took a deep breath before meeting the world's media Tuesday, coolly claiming his mother's legacy even as he acknowledged he has much to learn. The 19-year-old had not faced reporters since soon after Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party named him their symbolic leader last month—an act many suggested smacked of royalty.

Young Bhutto Zardari was ready for the succession question, stressing the party needed to show a united front to stem violence after his mother's assassination on Dec. 27. They chose him unanimously. Politics was in his blood.

"It wasn't handed on like some piece of family furniture," he said of the post. "(The party) asked me to do it and I did."

Little is known about Bhutto Zardari, who is now a kind of modern-day Pakistani dauphin, with his father acting as de facto regent. Even his Facebook page has proved unreliable, as detractors put up duplicate profiles, offering comments on everything from his purported views to the dark good looks he inherited from his mother.

Though born in Pakistan, Bhutto Zardari grew up in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He acknowledges he has not spent much time in the country of 160 million, but claimed his mother involved him in everything she did.

Deluged by requests for interviews, party officials organized the news conference at the elegant Gore Hotel in hopes that reporters would then just go away—or at least leave him alone long enough to finish his studies at Oxford University, where he is in his first year. The photo-opportunity-and-then-leave-him-alone idea has precedent: Buckingham Palace used it with Princes William and Harry.

"Although I admit that my experience to date is limited, I intend to learn," Bhutto Zardari said. "However, my immediate priority is to return to Oxford to continue my studies. Unless I can finish my education and develop enough maturity, I recognize that I will never be in a position to have sufficient wisdom to enter the political arena."

Pakistan's political world does not reward Bhuttos with long lives. Bhutto Zardari's grandfather was hanged two years after being deposed; one uncle was assassinated, another died a mysterious death in France. When asked if he feared for his life, Bhutto Zardari did not flinch.

"I fear more for my privacy," he said.

Bhutto Zardari's media debut was carried live on Pakistani TV networks and was the lead of news bulletins back home.

Ayaz Amir, a former Pakistani lawmaker and newspaper columnist was impressed, particularly with the teenager's concise answers.

"I guess verbosity comes with age and experience," he said.

Tauseef Ahmed, a journalism professor at Karachi's Federal Urdu University, said such confidence would not necessarily translate into success in the roughhouse world of Pakistani politics.

"Leading a huge political force like the Pakistan People's Party is a huge task," he said. "He'll need a lot of grooming by friends and party leaders, not just an Oxford education."

The PPP is Pakistan's largest opposition party, and is expected to do well in upcoming elections.

Its day-to-day operations have been taken on by Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, a former Cabinet minister accused of corruption during her time as prime minister, earning him the moniker "Mr. 10 percent."

Zardari accuses Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf of responsibility for his wife's killing by failing to provide proper security for her. His son called for a U.N.-sponsored investigation of her death, saying that he does not trust officials in Pakistan.

"Already so much forensic evidence has been destroyed," he said.

Seen as a unifying force in his party, the teenager added "Bhutto" to his name after his mother was killed.

World

Recordings show Iran-US clash in Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP)—Small Iranian fast boats swarmed around massive U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf, and a man speaking heavily accented English threatened, "I am coming to you. ... You will explode," according to a video released Tuesday by the Pentagon.

The Iranian boats appeared to ignore repeated warnings from the U.S. ships, including horn blasts and radio transmissions, as the ships moved through the Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf.

In a four-minute, 20-second video, shot from the bridge of the destroyer USS Hopper, the small boats—including a bright blue one—can be seen racing near the wake the U.S. ships and crossing close to each other.

From the Hopper's bridge, after spotting the approaching Iranian boats, a Navy crew member says over the radio: "This is coalition warship. I am engaged in transit passage in accordance with international law. I intend no harm. Over."

Often uneven and shaky, the video condenses what Navy officials have said was a 20-minute or so clash early Sunday between three Navy warships and five Iranian fast boats. It ends with a blank screen, as only the audio of the Navy's final warning can be heard, just after the voice warns that they are coming.

"Inbound small craft: You are approaching a coalition warship operating in international waters. Your identity is not known; your intentions are unclear," the unidentified Navy crew member says. He then cautions the Iranians that if they do not steer clear they will be "subject to defensive measures."

"Request that you alter course immediately to remain clear," the crew member says.

After a pause, the man with the accent issues a final threat: "You will explode after (indecipherable) minutes."

A Navy crew member then repeated the threat as he heard it: "He says, 'You will explode after a few minutes.'" At that point the tape ends.

President Bush on Tuesday denounced the incident as a "provocative act."

"It is a dangerous situation," Bush said during a White House news conference. "They should not have done it, pure and simple. ... I don't know what their thinking was, but I'm telling you what my thinking was. I think it was a provocative act."

AP

This image released by the US Navy Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, and shot Sunday, Jan. 6 from the bridge of the destroyer USS Hopper, shows a small blue boat, alleged to be Iranian, purportedly racing near the wake of U.S. Navy ships in the Persian Gulf.

US, Iraq launch anti-extremist operations

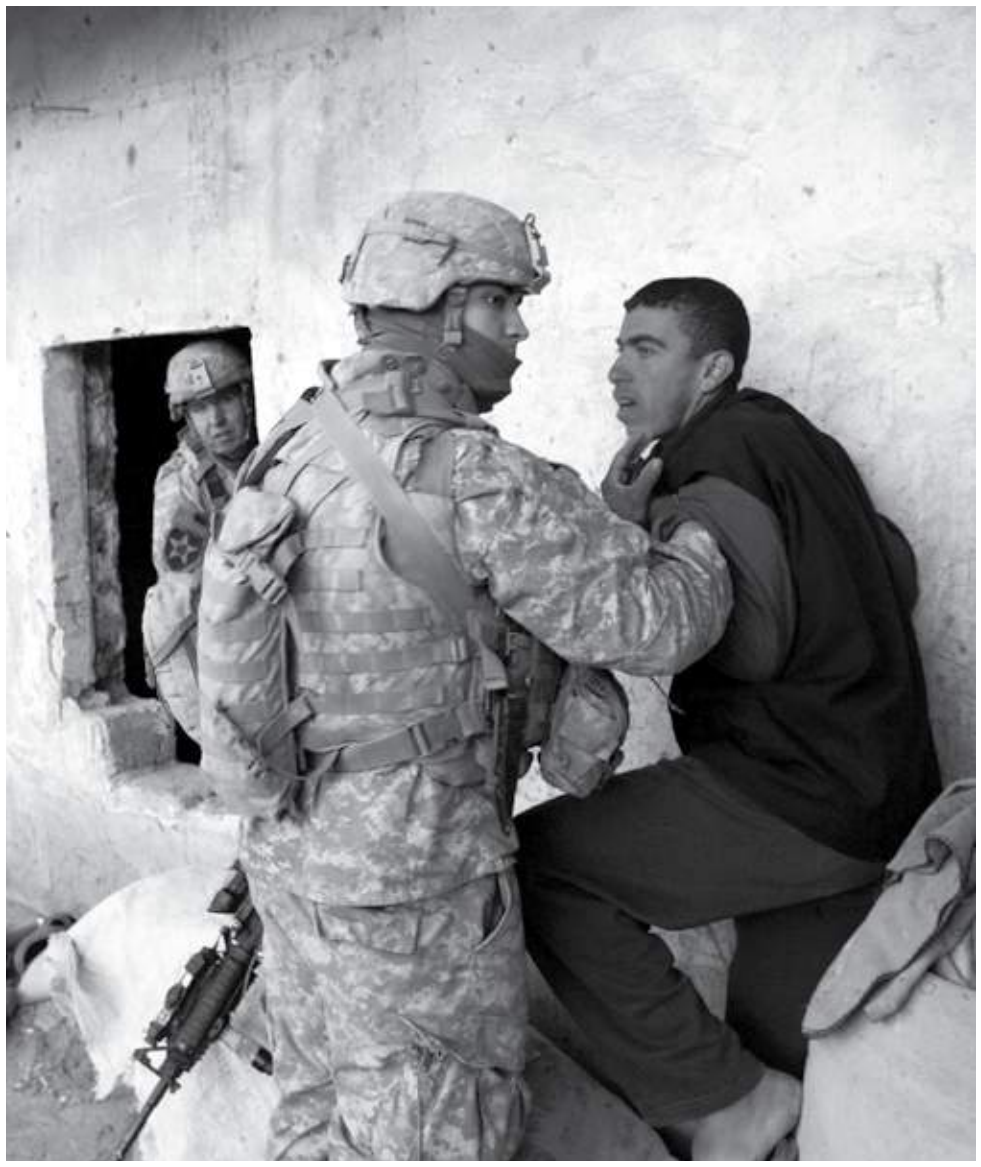
BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S. and Iraqi forces launched a major operation to strike against al-Qaida in Iraq and other extremists, the U.S. military said Tuesday, hoping to build on a recent reduction of violence and push militants from their strongholds.

The division and brigade-level operation, dubbed Phantom Phoenix, will cover the entire country, the military said.

U.S. and Iraqi forces will "continue to pursue al-Qaida and other extremists wherever they attempt to take sanctuary," Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, the No. 2 commander in Iraq, said in a statement announcing the start of the joint operation. "We are determined not to allow these brutal elements to have respite anywhere in Iraq."

Violence across Iraq has fallen dramatically in recent months, an improvement attributed to a combination of 30,000 extra troops sent into the Baghdad area; the work of U.S.-backed predominantly Sunni tribal groups who turned against al-Qaida in Iraq; and a cease-fire declared by radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr for his Mahdi Army militia.

Extremists have been pushed out of their former stronghold in Anbar province west of Baghdad to the east and north, and appear to be concentrated in the province of Diyala to the northeast of the capital and in Mosul to the north.



AP

A U.S. army soldier from Blackfoot Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment detains a suspect during the initial phase of Operation Raider Harvest in the village of Sinsil on the northern outskirts of Muqdadiyah, in the volatile Diyala province, about 90 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008.

Mideast leaders to address core issues

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed Tuesday to begin tackling the core issues of a peace agreement in a push to revive stalled negotiations ahead of the arrival of President Bush.

The renewed peace talks, formally launched at a conference in November in Annapolis, Md., are a centerpiece of Bush's agenda in his last year of office. But negotiations have made little headway, marred by Israeli construction plans in disputed territory and Palestinian militant attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We think the visit is an opportunity to energize the momentum of the post Annapolis dialogue between us and the Palestinians," Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said.

Also Tuesday, a pair of Lebanese rockets struck a northern Israeli town before dawn, the second strike from across the border since Israel's summer 2006 war with Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas. No one took responsibility for the attack. United Nations spokeswoman Michele Montas said U.N. officials had begun investigating the rocket fire, and she did not dispute the notion that the rockets may have been fired from an area where U.N. peacekeepers operate.

At their meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas pledged to have negotiators begin work immediately on the so-called final status issues. These issues include the final borders between Israel and a future Palestinian state, competing claims to the holy city of Jerusalem, the fate of millions of Palestinian refugees and Israeli security concerns.

Both Regev and Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the two leaders authorized their chief negotiators "to conduct direct and ongoing negotiations on all the final status issues."

"The president (Abbas) urged that the year of 2008 be a year of peace," Erekat said.

Both Israeli and Palestinian officials said their decision to begin work on the conflict's deepest issues was influenced by the Bush visit.

The Palestinians are furious about Israeli plans to build new housing in east Jerusalem and the West Bank—areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war and claimed by the Palestinians for their future state.

WORLD BRIEFS

Kenya president appoints Cabinet members

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenya's president named half his Cabinet Tuesday, angering opposition leaders who accuse him of stealing the recent election and undermining mediation attempts for a power-sharing agreement to end violence that has left more than 500 dead. In the hours after President Mwai Kibaki announced his Cabinet appointments, police fired over the heads of youths who set up a roadblock of burning tires in the western town of Kisumu, according to a resident there. Political violence in some areas since the East African nation's disputed Dec. 27 presidential election had deteriorated into clashes between other tribes and Kibaki's Kikuyu, which has long dominated Kenyan politics and the economy.

Obama family in Kenya watches US vote

KOGELO, Kenya (AP)—Seated on plastic chairs surrounded by chickens and barefoot children, Barack Obama's Kenyan relatives listened to the radio Tuesday for news of how their favorite son was doing in the New Hampshire primary. The early results were encouraging, bringing a whoop of satisfaction from the candidate's uncle. "Ah, that's wonderful," Said Obama declared, breaking into a wide grin. "But I don't want to jump just yet." Results of the New Hampshire voting didn't become clear until well after midnight in Kenya. Kogelo, the western Kenyan village of Barack Obama's father, has been spared the political and ethnic violence that has erupted in Kenya after last month's disputed presidential election.

UN climate chief to visit Antarctica

OSLO, Norway (AP)—The next report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change should deal with the "frightening" possibility that both Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets start melting at the same time, the chief U.N. climate scientist said Tuesday. The panel has released four climate assessment reports, including summaries for policymakers that are approved by government representatives. Though there are no firm plans for a fifth report, the panel is still inviting scientists to submit material on glaciers in both the far north and south, IPCC chairman Rajendra Pachauri said. Pachauri, who plans to visit Antarctica next week with Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, said evidence of global warming is most apparent at the poles, especially in the Arctic, where the climate panel says the melting of Greenland's vast glaciers could cause a 13-foot rise in sea levels in coming centuries.

Prodi announces Naples garbage measures

ROME (AP)—Premier Romano Prodi announced emergency measures Tuesday to deal with Naples' garbage crisis, and pledged to curb the control that organized crime has over trash collection. Prodi also named a new trash commissioner, tapping a former national police chief to deal with the crisis over the next four months. But he said that over the long term, Naples' garbage must be managed locally, not through a government-appointed commissioner. The premier announced the measures after another night of violent protests between demonstrators and police at the site of the Pianura dump outside Naples. Officials have said the site would be reopened after more than a decade to take in the heaps of garbage mounting on Naples' streets.

Environment

'Seaweed could stem global warming'

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Slimy, green and unsightly, seaweed and algae are among the humblest of plants.

A group of scientists at the climate conference in Bali say they could also be a potent weapon against global warming, capable of sucking damaging carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere at rates comparable to the mightiest rain forests.

"The ocean's role is neglected because we can't see the vegetation," said Chung Ik-kyo, a South Korean environmental scientist. "But under the sea, there is a lot of seaweed and sea grass that can take up carbon dioxide."

The seaweed research, backed by scientists in 12 Asian-Pacific countries, is part of a broad effort to calculate how much carbon is being absorbed from the atmosphere by plants, and to increase that through reforestation and other steps.

Such so-called "carbon sinks" are considered essential to controlling greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere and are blamed for global warming.

The conference in Bali is aimed at launching two-year negotiations for a new global warming pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012, and a major topic of discussion is the use of Earth's natural resources to remove carbon from the air.

AP

An Indonesian woman tends to her seaweed farm off the beach Thursday Dec. 6, 2007 in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia.

While most of the attention to carbon sinks has been on forests, the seaweed scientists say the world should look to the oceans, where some 8 million tons of seaweed and algae are harvested from wild or cultivated sources every year.

That solution is a largely Asian one—and it's not without complications. Critics say a challenge will be keeping the carbon, once absorbed, from reentering the atmosphere. And it's unclear how a vast increase in seaweed production would affect navigation or fisheries.

China is by far the world's largest producer of seaweed, followed by South Korea and Japan. The Asia-Pacific seas, where seaweed is used in soups, sushi and salads, accounts for 80 percent of global production.

Proponents say seaweed and algae's rapid rate of photosynthesis, the process of turning carbon dioxide and sunlight into energy and oxygen, make it a prime candidate for absorbing carbon out of the environment.

Some types of seaweed can grow 9 to 12 feet long in only three months. Lee Jae-young, with South Korea's fisheries ministry, said some seaweeds can absorb five times more carbon dioxide than plants on land. The oceans account for 50 percent of all the photosynthesis on the earth, said John Beardall, with Australia's Monash University.

"These are very productive ecosystems. They're drawing down a lot of carbon," Beardall said.

South Korea and Japan are leaders in the research. Seoul last year approved a $1.5 million a year project to investigate the possibilities. The Japanese government and a group of companies are also looking into setting up a huge cultivation area in the waters off the country's west coast.

In a presentation on the sidelines of the Bali conference on Friday, Beardall argued more efficient cultivation methods could greatly boost production in nations with long coastlines.

While the group is not recommending a specific target for expansion of seaweed cultivation, Beardall estimated that the Philippines could conceivably increase its annual output by more than 100 times with more intensive production techniques.

In addition to storing carbon, seaweed would need to be used to produce clean-burning biofuels, thereby ensuring the carbon dioxide isn't simply recycled back into the air as it would be if the seaweed is eaten.

The concept, however, has problems. Skeptics say trees are effective for carbon storage because they live for many years, while seaweed is cultivated and harvested in cycles of only months, meaning the storage will be hard to measure or control.

"It depends on how long you keep the materials," said I Nyoman Suryadiputra, of Wetlands International. "Because if it is decomposed in a month, the carbon dioxide will go back into the atmosphere."

Other obstacles remain. Some critics wonder if removing water from the seaweed as it's converted to fuel would require a large amount of energy, thereby reducing the environmental benefits. Supporters say sun-drying is an option, but it could be difficult to apply that on an industrial scale.

The environmental impact of rapid expansion of seaweed farms has also not been thought out, scientists concede. Huge floating farms could complicate fishing, shipping and other maritime activities.

Chung acknowledged the idea was in its infancy.

"In terms of ball games, we are just in the bullpen," he said, "not the main game yet."

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Ignacio & Jacinta (Geraldine, Marylynn/Steven, Lorraine/Scott)
Justina (Arlene/Joe, Healani, Janice)
Eusebio & Margarita (Ann Margaret/Max, Eugene/Carol, Rose/Kris)
Auria & Jose (Georgia, Michelle)
Olivia & Augustin (Allan, Steven)
Francisco & Margaret (Jade, Rose Janet)
Flavia & Raymond (Peter Joe, Vanessa/Nick, Russel Eugene)
Ana/Almondo (Kasandra)
Vicente & Sachiko (Quiyonni Chai, Tavon, Carter)

In Paradise, she now joins her:
Parents: Juan Muña Camacho
Maria San Nicolas Camacho
Parents-In-Law: Ignacio Diaz Borja
Ana Cabrera Arriola
Grandson: Eusebio Junior Castro Borja
Great Grand Daughter: Ayanna Eusevia Castro Borja

She will also be missed by:
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Francisco SN. & Margaret Camacho
Ana C. & Corcuato & Castro
Mariano SN. & Marina Camacho
†Juan SN. Camacho
†Juana C. Babauta/Felix Babauta
†Victoria SN. & Miguel Camacho
Maxima SN. Camacho
Maria C. Chaote/Don
Felipe SN. Camacho/You-Lian
Carlos A. Borja & Zenaida/†Olympia S. Borja
†Magdalena B. & †Antonio Palacios
Consolacion B. & †Jose Muña
Luise B./Gregorio Quitugua
Aurea A. Borja
Josepha B. & †Calistro Ada
Caregiver: Evangeline Nate

Our beloved also leaves behind and will greatly missed by 38 great grand children.
Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated at Santa Soledad Church Kagman at 6:00 p.m.
Holy Rosary is being prayed at the family residence in As Teo at 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, January 11, 2008, her remains will be escorted from Nuetra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. Responso Service will be at 8:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Service will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

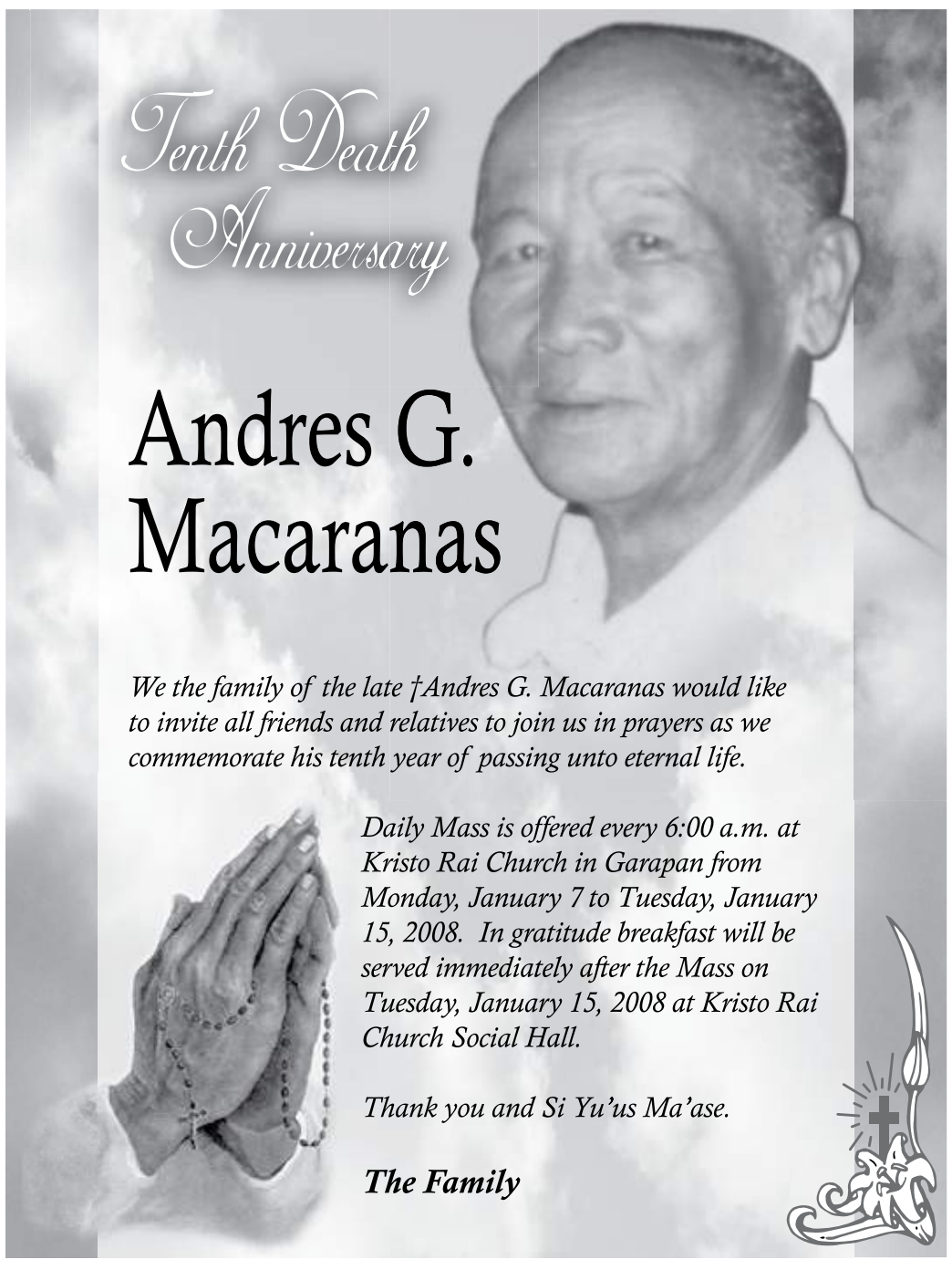
Please join us in prayers. Thank You - Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

EUGENIO A. BORJA, CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Life & Style

JAMES BOND STAMPS AP

This undated photo provided by Britain's Royal Mail shows Sean Connery lookalike Nick Richmond in the Quadrant Centre, Swansea, Wales at the launch of six stamps featuring the original cover artwork of James Bond thrillers. Britain's Royal Mail on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, issued a set of stamps commemorating the fictional super-spy to mark 100 years since the birth of his creator, Ian Fleming.


Tenth Death Anniversary
Andres G. Macaranas
We the family of the late †Andres G. Macaranas would like to invite all friends and relatives to join us in prayers as we commemorate his tenth year of passing unto eternal life.
Daily Mass is offered every 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan from Monday, January 7 to Tuesday, January 15, 2008. In gratitude breakfast will be served immediately after the Mass on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at Kristo Rai Church Social Hall.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
The Family

People's Choice Awards get around strike

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The stars of "Grey's Anatomy" and "Pirates of the Caribbean" were among the fan favorites at the 34th annual People's Choice Awards on Tuesday, as CBS scrapped its usual live broadcast of the show in favor of a strike-friendly, pre-taped program.

The two-month-old Writers Guild of America strike has taken a toll on Hollywood's awards season, leading to the cancellation of the Golden Globes and the scaling-down of People's Choice. The fate of other shows, including the Oscars, remains in question.

The People's Choice Awards announced last month that it would replace its traditional live show with "a new format" that had its crews deliver trophies to music, film and television stars on location.

Robin Williams accepted his award for favorite funny male while on tour with the United Service Organizations in Kabul, Afghanistan. Members of Rascal Flatts picked up their prize for favorite group at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, and Patrick Dempsey found out he was the favorite male TV star while at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The show couldn't be canceled entirely, host Queen Latifah said Monday.

"The thing about the People's Choice Awards that's different from everybody else is it's the people's choice," she said. "So as much as we actors and writers and everyone are dealing with the writers strike and supporting the Writers Guild, you can't disrespect the people who keep us working, and that's the people. Ten million people logged on and voted for everyone, so out of respect for them, we have to" present the awards.

Other winners in categories that spanned from movies to television to music included Johnny Depp of "Pirates" as favorite male movie star, Katherine Heigl of "Grey's" as favorite female TV star, "Dancing With the Stars" as favorite reality show, Ellen DeGeneres as favorite talk show host and Justin Timberlake as favorite male singer.

Stolen paintings recovered in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—Police recovered paintings by Pablo Picasso and Candido Portinari worth millions of dollars stolen last month from Brazil's leading modern art museum and have two suspects in custody, officials said Tuesday.

The painting were found undamaged and covered in plastic, leaning against a wall inside a house on the outskirst of Sao Paulo after one of the suspects led authorities to the home, said Mauricio Lemos Freire, the city's chief police inspector.

At a press conference late Tuesday, police exhibited the paintings—Picasso's "Portrait of Suzanne Bloch" and Portinari's "O Lavrador de Cafe"—while two guards armed with assault rifles, pistols and bulletproof vests stood by. Portinari is one of Brazil's most influential artists.

Julio Neves, president of the Sao Paulo Museum of Art, said the paintings are "in absolutely perfect condition," and will be put on exhibition on Friday—the date of the museum's reopening. He said the paintings will hang in the same spots as before their theft on Dec. 20 by robbers armed only with a crowbar and a car jack.

"The museum is upgrading and improving its security system to prevent this kind of thing from happening again," Neves said, without elaborating.

Art experts estimate the value of the Picasso at about $50 million and the Portinari at $5-6 million.

Picasso painted "Portrait of Suzanne Bloch" in 1904 during his Blue Period. "O Lavrador de Cafe," which depicts a coffee picker, was painted in 1939 and is one of Portinari's most renowned works. Portinari (1903-1962) was a practitioner of the "neo-realism" style.

The two suspects in custody—Francisco Laerton Lopes de Lima and Robson de Jesus Jordao—have criminal records and took part in the theft at the Sao Paulo Museum of Art, Freire said. One of the men was arrested on Dec. 27 and the other on Tuesday.

Police said they would not reveal how they captured the two men because other suspects remain at large and providing details could jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

"It's obvious the two did not steal the paintings for themselves," Freire said. "They did it for someone else. The focus of the investigation now is to find out for whom."

AP

President of Sao Paulo's Museum of Art, Julio Neves, left, speaks to an art expert, center, as a police officer stands guard next to the recovered paintings "Portrait of Suzanne Bloch", by Pablo Picasso, left, and "O Lavrador de Cafe", by Candido Portinari, in Sao Paulo, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008.

Posh Spice tops Blackwell worst-dressed

AP

Victoria Beckham arrives at the MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles, in this, June 3, 2007, file photo.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A decade after singling out the Spice Girls as fashion atrocities, Mr. Blackwell put just one of them—Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham—at the top of his 48th annual worst-dressed list.

The acid-tongued critic—who was designing dresses for the rich and famous when he originated the list in 1960—skewered entertainment's biggest stars in the latest compilation of fashion follies.

Saying it's all in fun to encourage fashion consciousness, Blackwell heaped venom on Beckham, his No. 1 choice on the list, which was released Tuesday.

"Forget the fashion spice, wearing a skirt would suffice! In one skinny-mini monstrosity after another, pouty Posh can really wreck-em," he said in a statement.

An e-mail message to Beckham's publicist, Cheryl Maisel, wasn't immediately answered.

Blackwell listed the Spice Girls as No. 1 in his 1998 worst-dressed list, deriding the group as "the only spices on the planet that have no taste."

Britney Spears, who has made the list many times before, is missing this year.

"I felt that it was inappropriate at this time to make comment, when her personal life is in such upheaval. I hope 2008 is a better year for her," Blackwell said.

The top 10 roll-call of fashion dishonors also includes:

■ No. 2: Amy Winehouse—"Exploding beehives above, tacky polka-dots below, she's part '50s carhop horror."

■ No. 3: Mary-Kate Olsen—"She resembles a tattered toothpick—trapped in a hurricane."

■ No. 4: Fergie—"Yes, when it comes to couture chaos, guess it's all in a name!"

His top 10 also includes Kelly Clarkson, Eva Green, Avril Lavigne, Jessica Simpson, Lindsay Lohan and Alison Arngrim.

He also released a Fabulous Fashion Independents list that includes Reese Witherspoon, Jemima Khan, Beyonce, Angelina Jolie, Helen Mirren, Nicole Kidman, Katie Holmes, Kate Middleton, Katherine Heigl and Cate Blanchett.

Oops, now Britney's lost her car

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It was just another night on the town Monday, and then another headline in the tabloids on Tuesday, for Britney Spears after the pop star had her car towed away and her visit to a high-end hotel triggered a scuffle between a photographer and a security guard.

The scuffle resulted in police being called to the Four Seasons Hotel near Beverly Hills about 90 minutes after they had a private towing company haul Spears' car away. But Officer Karen Smith said the pop star wasn't to blame for the Four Seasons dust-up.

Spears

"She was leaving the hotel when one of the paparazzi and a security guard at the hotel had a scuffle," Smith said.

Police took a battery report but the photographer had left the hotel by the time officers arrived and no one was arrested. The hotel's head of security did not respond to a message for comment.

Police said Spears left her 2008 Mercedes-Benz on busy Sunset Boulevard, near the University of California, Los Angeles campus, about 8 p.m. Monday because of a flat tire.

"She left it unattended and it was blocking traffic, so it was towed," Smith said.

It was unlikely Spears would be ticketed because the car was disabled, but police said she would have to pay a towing and impound fee to get it back. The vehicle was taken to Quicksilver Towing, where an employee who answered the phone Tuesday said he didn't know if it was still there.

"We had several Mercedes towed last night," he said, adding storage charges are $35.20 a day.

According to the celebrity Web site TMZ.com, Spears caught a ride home from a member of the horde of paparazzi who follow her everywhere. Then it was off to the Four Seasons.

The car and hotel incidents were only minor bumps in the road for Spears, who is involved in a bitter, public custody dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline over the couple's sons, 1-year-old Jayden James and 2-year-old Sean Preston.

France: President's son turns to rap

PARIS (AP)—President Nicolas Sarkozy used to take on foul-mouthed rappers. Now, his eldest son appears to be embracing them.

French rapper Poison, known for his expletive-laden lyrics and his fierce criticism of the conservative leader, said Pierre Sarkozy helped produce some of his upcoming album - and even contributed the lyrics for one of its tracks.

In an interview last week with hip-hop radio station Generations 88.2, Poison said he didn't realize who Pierre Sarkozy - who goes by the pen name "Mosey" - was until after he agreed to work with him.

"When I found out, I swear I went ballistic," Poison said. "The worst thing is that ... I found out maybe six, seven months ago, and I've known the guy for the last five years. He's a friend."

Poison made clear that his relationship with Pierre Sarkozy hadn't changed his opinion of the president, whose 2003 pledge to crack down on offensive rap lyrics angered many people.

"I'm not a fan of Sarkozy," Poison said, concluding with an expletive.

During his tenure as interior minister, Sarkozy complained about what he called the racist and anti-Semitic content in songs by the French hip-hop group Sniper.

Pierre Sarkozy, who is in his early 20s, is one of the French leader's three sons. He lists the Poison track "La Rue" as one of his credits on a My Space Web site with what appears to be a picture of the president's son. On the page, "Mosey" describes himself as a "young Parisian producer."

Sarkozy's office would not comment on the radio interview, saying it involved the private

Sierra sentenced to rehab, probation

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A judge is sending Jessica Sierra to rehab. The former "American Idol" contestant was sentenced Monday to a yearlong stint at a California rehabilitation clinic and three years' probation.

Sierra, 22, was arrested last month for disorderly intoxication and resisting officers. She remained jailed Tuesday in Tampa.

Sierra

In July, she entered a California rehab facility that was to be documented on the VH1 reality show "Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew," hosted by Dr. Drew Pinsky.

Circuit Judge Daniel Perry said he didn't want the sentence to be another screen test for Sierra.

Perry said he doesn't "want anybody glamorizing the fact that she's a drug addict."

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One Missed Call

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Ed Burns, Shannyn Sossamon
Horror, Remake • Rated PG13

Synopsis
Beth Raymond is traumatized when she witnesses the gruesome deaths of two friends just days apart. Even more disturbing, she knows that both of them had received chilling cell phone messages—actual recordings of their own horrifying last moments. Impossibly, the calls were received days before they died, but each death occurred precisely when and how the messages foretold.

★ ★ ★

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep

Friday		4:20	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:20	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:20	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:30	

Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin
Family, Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis
When Angus, a young Scottish boy, finds an enchanted egg, he takes it home and soon finds himself face-to-face with an amazing creature: the mythical "water horse" of Scottish lore. Angus begins a journey of discovery, facing his greatest fears and risking his life to protect a secret that would give birth to a legend.

National Treasure: Book of Secrets

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger
Action, Adventure • Rated PG

Charlie Wilson's War

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts
Comedy, Biopic • Rated R

Walk Hard: Dewey Cox Story

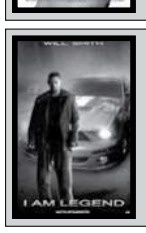
Friday		@	7:05	9:55
Saturday	@	@	7:05	9:55
Sunday	@	@	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		@	7:05	

John C. Reilly, Jenna Fischer
Comedy, Music • Rated R

P.S. I Love You

Friday		4:30	@	@
Saturday	1:30	4:30	@	@
Sunday	1:30	4:30	@	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	@	

Hilary Swank, Gerald Butler
Drama, Adaptation • Rated PG13



I Am Legend

Friday		4:15	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:20	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:20	

Will Smith, Alice Braga
Action, Sci-Fi, Adventure • Rated PG13

Alvin & The Chipmunks

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Jason Lee, Cameron Richardson
Comedy, Family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Eminem recovering from pneumonia

DETROIT (AP)—Eminem is recovering from a bout with pneumonia that sent him to the hospital. "Over the holidays, Marshall Mathers, aka Eminem, was under doctor's care at a Detroit-area hospital for complications due to pneumonia," the rapper's publicist, Dennis Dennehy, said Tuesday. "He has since been released and is doing well recovering at home."

Eminem's illness first was reported by celebrity Web site TMZ.com.

Eminem, 35, rose to stardom thanks to a number of best-selling CDs, personal lyrics and a starring role in the hit 2002 film "8 Mile."

He has won Grammys, including best rap album for "The Slim Shady LP," "The Marshall Mathers LP" and "The Eminem Show," as well as an Oscar for the song "Lose Yourself" from "8 Mile."

Eminem

Snipes

Appeals court: No delay in Snipes trial

OCALA, Fla. (AP)—Wesley Snipes' attempt to delay his federal tax-evasion trial was denied Tuesday by a federal appeals court in Atlanta.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied a motion from Snipes' legal team to delay the trial, which is set to begin Jan. 14. The court also granted federal prosecutors' motion to dismiss a defense request seeking to move the trial out of Ocala, about 80 miles north of Orlando.

A federal indictment charges Snipes with fraudulently claiming refunds totaling almost $12 million in 1996 and 1997 for income taxes already paid. Snipes was also charged with failure to file returns from 1999 through 2004.

The 45-year-old star of the "Blade" trilogy and other films is accused of conspiring with American Rights Litigators founder Eddie Ray Kahn and tax preparer Douglas P. Rosile Sr. to file false refund claims using a bogus argument that only income from foreign sources was subject to taxation.

Snipes' lawyers had argued that he cannot get a fair trial in Ocala. Snipes previously filed two motions to dismiss or transfer the trial because of racial prejudices.

The defense said Snipes had the right to a trial in New York, where he lived between October 2000 and April 2005 when the offenses allegedly occurred, or in Orlando, where he also has a home.

A message left with Snipes' attorney by The Associated Press was not immediately returned Tuesday evening.

Toy joins guitar and 'Guitar Hero'

LAS VEGAS (AP)—How many more gadgets do we need to help us pretend to play guitar? At least one, apparently.

The makers of the "Guitar Hero" video game have licensed their name to a $30 toy called Guitar Hero Air Rocker that combines a magnetic guitar pick and a belt buckle with a mini-amplifier.

After the player chooses one of 10 included riffs - from songs like "Smoke on the Water" and "More than a Feeling" - the toy captures the rhythm of the player moving the pick past magnetic coils in the buckle, without ever actually touching it, and broadcasts the riff.

Wearing a T-shirt and sunglasses, toy director Brandon Giraldez of Jada Toys in City of Industry, Calif., drew cameras and large crowds with his emphatic air guitar playing at the ShowStoppers media event outside the Consumer Electronics Show.

Giraldez said Air Rocker is intended to latch onto "the air guitar phenomenon."

The product will be available at major retailers in March. Expansion packs with more songs will be sold later, Giraldez said.

Kurylenko, Arterton are Bond's new girls

NEW YORK (AP)—James Bond has two new Bond Girls. Olga Kurylenko and Gemma Arterton will co-star in the latest installment of the 007 franchise opposite Daniel Craig, Columbia Pictures has announced.

Craig made his debut as Bond in 2006's "Casino Royale," which co-starred French actress Eva Green as Vesper Lynd, an enigmatic spy who stole Bond's heart - and broke it, too.

For Craig's second appearance, Kurylenko, a Ukrainian model-turned-actress, "will play the dangerously alluring Camille, who challenges Bond and helps him come to terms with the emotional consequences of Vesper's betrayal," the studio says.

Kurylenko's screen credits include "Hitman" and "Paris, je t'aime."

Arterton will portray MI6 Agent Fields. She appears in the upcoming "RocknRolla," directed by Guy Ritchie.

Columbia spokesman Steve Elzer had no details Tuesday on Arterton's character.

Marc Forster is directing the film, which has the working title, "Bond 22." It is slated for release Nov. 7.

Actress Olga Kurylenko poses during a photo call for the film "Paris je t'aime," at the 59th International film festival in Cannes, southern France, in this May 18, 2006, file photo. AP

McCanns ponder film on missing Madeleine

LONDON (AP)—The parents of missing British girl Madeleine McCann have held talks with a U.S. entertainment company regarding the making of a film about their daughter's disappearance, a family spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Clarence Mitchell said he and another family representative met with IMG Media last month.

"If we feel any particular proposal in the media has validity in helping us find Madeleine, we are happy to discuss it," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said a film would be considered only if it helped raise awareness of the case, emphasizing that nothing had been agreed.

IMG spokesman Jim Gallagher confirmed that representatives of London-based Darlow Smithson, an IMG subsidiary that produces television programs, met with McCann family representatives.

He said the company talked about the possibility of a documentary following the ongoing search for Madeleine, adding that discussions were still at an early stage and the issue of money had not been raised.

Madeleine McCann disappeared from a Portuguese resort on May 3, a few days before her fourth birthday.

Portuguese police have named the parents, Kate and Gerry McCann, as formal suspects. They maintain their innocence, and no one has been charged in connection with the disappearance.

Woman's dirty secret is cause for concern about her health

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was recently called to come in to work at the grocery story where I am employed because my department manager, "Meg," didn't show up. After I finished the shift, I stopped by Meg's house to check on her. She didn't answer the door. Eventually a neighbor and I were able to enter her home and found her very ill. We called 911, and Meg was taken to the hospital. She's now in the ICU.

Meg is pretty much a loner, and her son lives in another state. In addition to my concern for her health, I was appalled by what I saw when we got inside her home. Abby, the place was filled with trash piled so deep we couldn't tell if there was any furniture. There was only a narrow pathway to her bedroom. A couple of space heaters were on, so I assume the furnace wasn't working. I also learned the police had to shut the water off because of a leak inside the house. It appears Meg was not having things repaired because she is hesitant to let anyone into her place.

It depresses me to know she lives in such deplorable conditions. I haven't been able to talk to anyone else at work about this, even though they, too, are concerned about Meg's illness. I can't imagine her returning to her home in the condition it's in. I'm sure she realizes that I've been in there, and I would imagine she's terribly embarrassed.

What should I say to her when she comes back to work, and what can I do to help her?

—TROUBLED IN COLORADO

DEAR TROUBLED: The living conditions you have described are not only a danger to Meg's health, but also a serious fire hazard. All it would take is for any of the items piled on her floor to come in contact with one of the space heaters, and her place could become an inferno.

One way to help the woman would be to notify the health department and the fire department about the conditions you observed. Also, many hospitals have a social worker on staff, and another way to help Meg would be to quietly inform that person about the circumstances under which Meg was admitted to the hospital.

When she finally returns to work, all you should say is that you're glad she's back. Make no reference to what you saw, and I'm sure she won't either.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 30 years is suffering from a brain tumor and the effects of treatment. Her illness has been ongoing for about eight years, but has become debilitating during the last three.

We have spent most important holidays with—and traveled with—some close friends who were also neighbors. Recently, the other two couples made a trip and didn't invite us or discuss the trip with us. I resent the fact that we were not at least consulted. While I understand that we might be a "problem" to travel with, I'm hurt that the trip was planned without any discussion with us and was kept a secret until departure time. Am I being petty?

—HURT IN LILBURN, GA.

DEAR HURT: I don't think so. Your feelings are understandable, particularly because you're coping with so much stress right now.

Your friends may have acted the way they did because they felt guilty about being able to travel while your wife is not. They may also have been afraid that discussing a trip that you and your wife could not manage would be more hurtful than just going. Obviously, they were wrong, but please try to forgive them.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

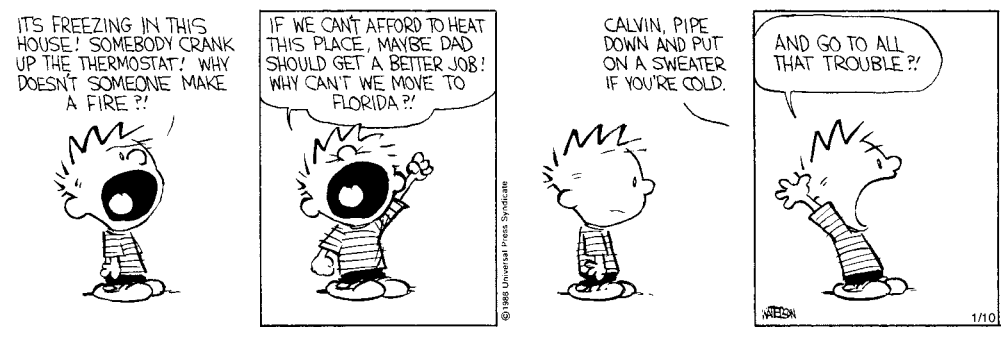
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

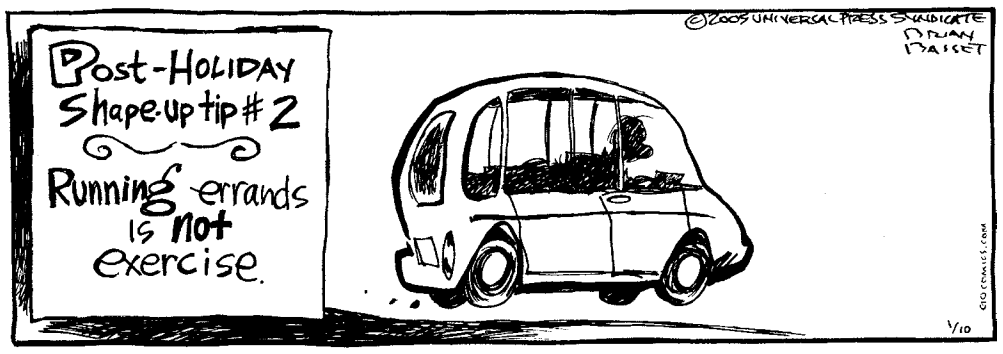

IT'S FREEZING IN THIS HOUSE! SOMEBODY CRANK UP THE THERMOSTAT! WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE MAKE A FIRE?!
IF WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HEAT THIS PLACE, MAYBE DAD SHOULD GET A BETTER JOB! WHY CAN'T WE MOVE TO FLORIDA?!
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
CALVIN, PIPE DOWN AND PUT ON A SWEATER IF YOU'RE COLD.
AND GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE?!
WATTERSON
1/10

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN WE QUIT ARGUING LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE A PEACEFUL DINNER?!
2008 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
HERE!
www.gocomics.com
AND THAT INCLUDES INSULTS IN MY ALPHABET SOUP!!
Glenn McCoy
1-10

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Use a Q-Tip
5 Canadian flag symbol
9 Suffer a recession?
12 Green land
13 Eli's school
14 Born
15 Under a spell
17 Couric's employer
18 Quit
19 Vacant, as a flat
21 Doctor who fought 007
22 Copy, for short
24 Hastened
27 Scarlet
28 Largest of the seven
31 Family
32 In need of repair
33 Remnant
34 Part of the foot?
36 Chesapeake, e.g.
37 Toteboard stats
38 Westminster building
40 Qtr. of a bushel
41 Wit
43 Blood-bank supply
47 Venomous viper
48 In ciphertext
51 Sandra or Ruby
52 Use a paper towel
53 Tittle
54 Toss into the mix
55 Go no farther
56 Unwanted e-mail

DOWN
1 Crystal gazer
2 Sommelier's suggestion
3 Curved lines
4 Trailing
5 Vanessa's sister
6 Dine on
7 Hearty quaff
8 Sick and tired
9 In the envelope
10 Actress Neuwirth
11 Unsurpassed
16 Past
20 Gun lovers' org.
22 Pass the baton
23 Vortex
24 Tackle moguls
25 ATM access no.
26 Set up a bivouac
27 Judicial garb
29 Third party (Abbr.)
30 Billboards
35 Showtime alternative
37 Giraffes' cousins
39 7-Down et al.
40 Thickness
41 "Mary — Little Lamb"
42 Second-hand
43 Victim
44 Red light
45 "I never — man I didn't like"
46 Leading man?
49 Little louse
50 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	L	O	T	■	P	A	S	■	O	G	R	E
A	O	N	E	■	U	R	N	■	P	I	E	R
R	O	U	L	E	T	T	E	■	P	L	A	N
I	N	S	E	R	T	■	A	T	O	L	L	S
■	■	■	X	I	I	■	D	O	S	E	■	■
E	B	B	■	N	E	W	■	M	E	T	R	O
S	O	R	T	■	S	E	T	■	S	T	U	D
E	X	U	R	B	■	B	R	A	■	E	N	D
■	■	N	E	B	S	■	A	W	L	■	■	■
B	R	E	A	C	H	■	G	O	E	S	O	N
O	U	T	S	■	O	M	E	L	E	T	T	E
O	N	T	O	■	C	O	D	■	D	O	I	T
K	E	E	N	■	K	E	Y	■	S	A	C	S

Yesterday's answer 1-10

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				16					■	17		
18						■	■	19	20			
■	■	■	21		■	22	23				■	■
24	25	26		■	27			■	28		29	30
31			■	■	32			■	■	33		
34			35	■	36			■	37			
■	■	38		39			■	40		■	■	■
41	42				■	■	43			44	45	46
47			■	48	49	50						
51			■	52				■	53			
54			■	55				■	56			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Janet Jones, 47; Pat Benatar, 55; George Foreman, 59; Rod Stewart, 63

Happy Birthday: Take a new look at an old idea. You may have been ahead of your time in the past and can now reinvent and recoup if you learned from your mistakes and experience. Settlements, investments and getting back what's owed to you are in the stars. Your numbers are 5, 13, 27, 32, 34, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Learning something new should be your goal, especially if it brings you in contact with people who can add value to your pursuits. Love is in the stars. Put some time aside to spend with someone you care for. 4 stars

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Think twice before taking on a new responsibility. Someone may try to talk you into doing or paying for something that you shouldn't. You have to be prepared to say no. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll have some great ideas that are sure to be real crowd-pleasers. The help you offer others will be repaid in an unusual way. Don't mince words. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't go overboard but do follow through with your plans. An opportunity must be taken advantage of today. You can get ahead if you are quick to make a decision and align yourself with someone who can help you advance. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Things will not be as they appear, so don't be too quick to make promises you may not want to fulfill. Someone you are in partnership with may not give you all the information you require. Do your own research. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look at your options and prepare to surprise everyone with your next move. Today one door may close but, rest assured, another will open. Don't hesitate to see what's being offered or to make a move that interests you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your eyes will be wide open today about what it is you really want to do. Once your mind is made up, you will find it much easier to get involved in whatever process is necessary to reach your chosen goals. Shoot for the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do your own homework and do not rely on others to be honest with you. Someone will give you false feedback. This is about your project or idea so forget about what others say, do or want from you. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You have to stay focused. If you spread yourself too thin, you will miss out altogether. Take one of your ideas and work on it until you have something worthwhile. Hard work will pay off, especially if you are unique, inventive and original. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can broaden your horizons if you get involved in a fundraising event. You'll meet interesting people who can benefit you in the future. Take a leadership position that will allow you to show others your attributes. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Set a new trend or just follow through with one of your ideas. Your inventive and imaginative mind will capture interest. It's not about success or failure but about the satisfaction you get out of following something through to completion. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't leave any stone unturned. Dig deep and you will find out what is truth and what isn't. Dealing with institutions will be required but that will also entitle you to a rite of passage. Be precise in what you do. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a deep thinker, an inventor and a master at setting a standard or trend. Your vision is far reaching and your timing is good. You are independent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2								
7	1				6			
4			1	5		8		
	4						3	5
3				9				8
1	6						2	
		9		8	3			2
			6				8	7
								9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	7	5	3	2	4	8	1
1	8	5	9	7	4	2	6	3
3	4	2	1	6	8	7	5	9
8	1	3	2	5	7	9	4	6
7	2	9	4	1	6	8	3	5
4	5	6	3	8	9	1	2	7
6	9	4	7	2	5	3	1	8
5	7	1	8	4	3	6	9	2
2	3	8	6	9	1	5	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHOPPING ONLINE **Solution: 8 letters**

(E)	(M)	(O)	(H)	I	C	N	T	F	S	E	M	A	G	C
E	S	U	O	M	A	I	L	N	A	G	H	S	D	H
F	B	I	L	L	M	R	E	L	I	S	E	A	E	A
U	S	E	D	U	E	E	E	F	I	L	T	R	S	R
R	T	Z	S	N	R	V	T	D	L	E	B	D	S	G
N	O	I	T	C	A	S	N	A	R	T	O	A	E	E
I	C	S	S	R	F	H	B	F	L	O	W	E	R	S
T	K	E	T	Y	M	O	C	V	G	H	P	D	D	G
U	S	A	L	E	O	R	O	R	S	P	I	T	D	D
R	A	R	W	K	N	T	E	D	E	G	R	N	A	D
E	E	C	S	A	E	C	S	T	I	M	T	E	N	R
V	D	H	S	T	Y	U	R	T	A	F	R	U	S	A
I	I	E	N	O	I	T	A	M	R	I	F	N	O	C
G	N	I	H	T	O	L	C	E	T	E	L	O	A	N
D	E	L	I	V	E	R	Y	P	R	I	V	A	T	E

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Address, Away, Bill, Books, Camera, Card, Cars, Charges, Clothing, Confirmation, Date, Delivery, Digital, Dish, Fast, Flowers, Food, Furniture, Game, Gifts, Give, Goods, Grab, Home, Hotels, Ideas, Loan, Mail, Merchandise, Money, Mouse, Music, Order, Private, Read, Refund, Retail, Sale, Screens, Search, Sell, Send, Shortcut, Size, Stocks, Surf, Take, Tips, Toys, Transaction, Travel, Trip, Vote

Yesterday's Answer: Conceal

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune*'s print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

---

2 br apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Rd., Chalan Laulau. Behind former Hakubotan bldg. Close to beach walking path. Call 483-1974.

Apartment for rent: 2br, 1bt, 24hrs water, Koblerville • $230/month-no deposit. Tel.: 288-0728 look for Edson

WANTED
AVON
REPRESENTATIVE
Earn easy additional income
30% to 50% commission.
Please call Jojo Faller
at 483-1971, 323-4455

NEW Rattan Furniture
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791,
433-9616, 285-7446

PSYCHIC GABRIELA REUNITES LOVERS
PSYCHIC GABRIELA IS A GOD GIFTED HEALER AND MIRACLE WORKER; REUNITES LOVERS; SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS GUARANTEED, 26-YEARS EXPERIENCE; REMOVE ALL NEGATIVITY; NEVER FAILED; CALLED ALL ENEMIES BY NAME; FREE READING. CALL 214-586-5685

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

3rd NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Edward M. Ayuyu, ("Trustor"), on or about September 17, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 17, 2001 under Document No. 01-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 345 R 426, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 929 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 345 R 09 DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 1984, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 84-2049, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on July 20, 2006. Thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **February 11, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Rota Field Office, Sonton, P.O. Box 527, Rota, MP 96951** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $36,688.00, the total amount due under the VA loan plus Trustee's expenses.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 9th day of January, 2008.

/S/Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 CIVIL ENGINEER (T 3901)
Salary:$1,200.00-$2,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employee provided food; medical & workmens compensation provided. Contact: Pacific Drilling Ltd. @235-8531.

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1 COMMERICAL CLEANER (TH 4560)
Salary:$3.55/hour-$4.00/hour.

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Benefits: housing $150 monthly allowance; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Marianas Medical Center. Tel. 234-3926

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1 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (TH 4561)
Salary:$4.25/hour. Benefits: Workers Compensation and Medical Insurance, surety bond provided by employer. Contact: Anthony R. Sterns DBA Wireless Ridge Landscaping. Tel. 234-3926

1 ELECTRICIAN (TH 4562)
Salary:$4.75/hour. Benefits: housing $150 monthly allowance; medical insurance & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Anthony R. Sterns DBA Wireless Ridge Landscaping. Tel. 234-3926

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1 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (TH 4563)
Salary:$3.55/hour-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Employee self arrange housing; self provided food; Medical expenses & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: AA Enterprise, Inc. Tel. 322-4447.

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1 MAINTENANCE/REPAIRER (TH 4564)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: self provided food; Health & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Jeannette Mary T. Pangelinan. Tel. 483-3326.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE/ REPAIRS (TH 4565)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Health & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Jeannette Mary T. Pangelinan DBA Twin Bean Apt. Tel: 483-3326.

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1 KITCHEN HELPER (TH 4566)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Rong Hua Corp. Tel. 233-4825.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (TH 4567)
alary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing & Food self provided, Medical & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Rong Hua Corp. Tel. 233-4825.

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1 MAINTENANCE/REPAIRER (TH 4568)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Housing & Food self provided. Medical expenses & worker's compensation coverage. Contact: Letecia R. Soltenberg dba Janrome Gen Services Tel. 322-6506.

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1 VIDEO SALES CLERK (TH 4570)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self provided; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: E.W.G.E. Corporation dba Kevin's Video II @235-6988/234-6988/256-6988/235-6986.

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1 ENGINEER (CONSTRUCTION) (TH 4571)
Salary:$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical reimbursement & workers compensation. Contact: Wall Street Empire, Inc. dba D.C. Construction @234-3663.

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1 UNDERWRITER (TH 4572)
Salary:$3.75-$9.10/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Century Insurance Co., Ltd. @234-0609.

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1 (TOUR TRAVEL) COORDINATOR (TH 4573)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Century Travel Agency Inc. @236-2400.

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1 SALES REP., MERCHANDISE (TH 4574)
Salary:$3.55-$3.95/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Cosmos Distr. Co., Ltd. @323-5950.

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1 LANDSCAPER (TH 4575)
Salary:$3.55-$3.95/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: L&T International Corp. @236-2400.

1 MECHANIC, HEAVY EQUIPMENT (TH 4576)
Salary:$3.55-$4.20/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: L&T International Corp. @236-2400.

1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4577)
Salary:$3.55-$4.20/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: L&T International Corp. @236-2400.

1 HOUSE KEEPER (TH 4578)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: L&T International Corp. @236-2400.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4579)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Jerry Tan @236-2400.

1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4580)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Jerry Tan @236-2400.

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1 MANAGER, DEPARTMENT 1 (TH 4581)
Salary:$1,970.00-$2,170.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 CLERK, DOCUMENTATON BILL (TH 4582)
Salary:$3.55-$4.80/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (TH 4583)
Salary:$3.55-$8.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 CLERK, DOCUMENTATION BILL (TH 4584)
Salary:$3.55-$5.25/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 SHIPPING SUPERVISOR (TH 4585)
Salary:$3.55-$6.05/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

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1 CARGO HANDLER (TH 4586)
Salary:$3.55-$4.10/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (TH 4587)
Salary:$3.55-$5.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT (TH 4588)
Salary:$3.55-$4.30/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 CARGO HANDLER (TH 4589)
Salary:$3.55-$4.10/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT (TH 4590)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 CARGO HANDLER (TH 4591)
Salary:$3.55-$4.10/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

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1 GENERAL MANAGER (TH 4592)
Salary:$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical are provided by the employer. Contact: Mac-US Int'l. Inc. dba New City Int'l Const. @288-0191.

1 (ASST.) GENERAL MANAGER (TH 4593)
Salary:$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical are provided by the employer. Contact: Mac-US Int'l. Inc. dba New City Int'l Const. @288-0191.

1 OPERATION MANAGER (TH 4594)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical are provided by the employer. Contact: Mac-US Int'l. Inc. dba New City Int'l Const. @288-0191.

1 CONST. WORKER (TH 4595)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical are provided by the employer. Contact: Mac-US Int'l. Inc. dba New City Int'l Const. @288-0191.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4596)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: ER provide housing; ER provide food & medical reimbursement. Contact: Mark B. Hanson @233-8600.

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1 MASON (TH 4597)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee provided food; workers compensation & medical insurance provided by employer. Contact: ECM International Corp. dba ECM Construction @235-9294.

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1 VIDEO SALES CLERK (TH 4598)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self provided; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: E.W.G.E. Corporation dba Kevin's Video II @235-6988/234-6988/256-6988/235-6986.

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1 DISPATCHER (TH 4599)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Saipan Cool Water & Ice, Inc. dba Saipan Cool Water & Ice @888-0379.

1 WASHER (TH 4600)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Saipan Cool Water & Ice, Inc. dba Saipan Cool Water & Ice @888-0379.

2 DELIVERY WORKER (TH 4601)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Saipan Cool Water & Ice, Inc. dba Saipan Cool Water & Ice @888-0379.

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1 TOUR MANAGER (TH 4602)
Salary:$650.00-$800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Pil Corporation dba Kan Tour @483-1234.

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1 GENERAL MANAGER (TH 4603)
Salary:$650.00-$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Jaeyoon Corporation dba BSA @483-9130.

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1 TOUR MANAGER (TH 4604)
Salary:$650.00-$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Korea Tourism, Inc. dba Koreana Tours Bureau @233-3004.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (TH 4605)
Salary:$650.00-$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Korea Tourism, Inc. dba Koreana Tours Bureau @233-3004.

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1 COOK (TH 4606)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Manju P. Hom dba Java Joes @235-5098.

1 F&B MANAGER (TH 4607)
Salary:$6.91/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Manju P. Hom dba Java Joes @235-5098.

3 BARISTA (WAITRESS OR WAITER) (TH 4608)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Manju P. Hom dba Java Joes @235-5098.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4609)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expense. Contact: Juan L. Ada dba House Worker @234-5036 or 287-5799.

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1 PLUMBER (TH 4610)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & worker compensation. Contact: Juana S. Muna dba House Rental @235-1505.

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1 FARMER (TH 4611)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expense. Contact: Juana S. Muna dba Farmer @235-1305 or 287-5799 (Mary Ada).

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1 HOUSE WORKER (TH 4612)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expense. Contact: Juana S. Muna dba House Worker @235-1305/287-5799.

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1 (NURSERY/DAY CARE SCHOOL-ATTENDANT) MANAGER (TH 4613)
Salary:$1,000.00-$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Chunlan Wen Cabrera dba Ever Green Day Care Center @235-2798.

1 GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4614)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Chunlan Wen Cabrera dba Ever Green Day Care Center @235-2798.

2 NURSERY/DAY CARE SCHOOL ATTENDANT (TH 4615)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Chunlan Wen Cabrera dba Ever Green Day Care Center @235-2798.

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1 ASSISTANT TIRE REPAIRER (TH 4616)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expense. Contact: Phillip A. Fejeran Jr. dba J&J Tire Shop @235-1283.

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1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4617)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

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1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (TH 4618)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Marianas Seas Adventures Inc. @233-0577.

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2 COOK (TH 4619)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: J.T.M. Corporation @233-5436.

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1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (TH 4620)
Salary:$650.00-$800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical expenses & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Aqua Del Rey Saipan, Inc. @233-7040.

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1 (MARINE) SPORTS INSTRUCTOR (TH 4621)
Salary:$634.40-$1,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Mermaid Saipan Ent., Co., Ltd. @322-0563.

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1 MECHANICAL ENGINEER (TH 4622)
Salary:$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Eaulands CNMI Inc. @322-0018.

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1 CIVIL ENGINEER (TH 4623)
Salary:$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Sanki Company Ltd. @233-3296.

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2 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4624)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Martha's Retail Shop, Inc. @234-9774.

2 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TH 4625)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Martha's Retail Shop, Inc. @234-9774.

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1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (TH 4626)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical; surety bond; & worksmen compensation. Contact: ASG Corporation dba Elite Printing @288-6465/2677.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4627)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pamela C. Sablan @235-9493.

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1 SALES ASSOCIATES (TH 4628)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical expense & workmen compensation. Contact: EQ Construction Corp. dba Our Daily Bread Bakery @234-8828/234-8827.

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1 LAUNDRY WORKER (TH 4629)
Salary:$3.55-$3.85/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical insurance; workers compensation; sick leave & vacation leave. Contact: Tropical Laundry & Linen Supply Co., Ltd. @322-3077/8.

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5 WAITRESS/WAITER (TH 4630)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing; self provided food; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: RPCF, Inc. @234-9127.

3 CARPENTER (TH 4631)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing; self provided food; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: RPCF, Inc. @234-9127.

1 ELECTRICIAN (TH 4632)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing; self provided food; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: RPCF, Inc. @234-9127.

9 MASON (TH 4633)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/monthly housing; self provided food; medical & worksmens compensation. Contact: RPCF, Inc. @234-9127.

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1 FOOD SERVER (TH 4634)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Theresa R. Dela Cruz dba Cruz Catering Services @235-1679.

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

RECEPTIONIST / COLLECTIONS ASSISTANT

The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, has a full-time position vacancy for a Receptionist / Collections Assistant. The successful candidate must be a US citizen or IR, be a high school graduate, and have good English language and bookkeeping skills. Duties will include greeting visitors to the Office, answering the telephone, assisting with the Firm's collections practice, and other related duties.
The salary is competitive.

Applications may be obtained at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe. Completed applications must be accompanied by a police clearance and proof of US citizenship or IR status. No telephone calls, please.

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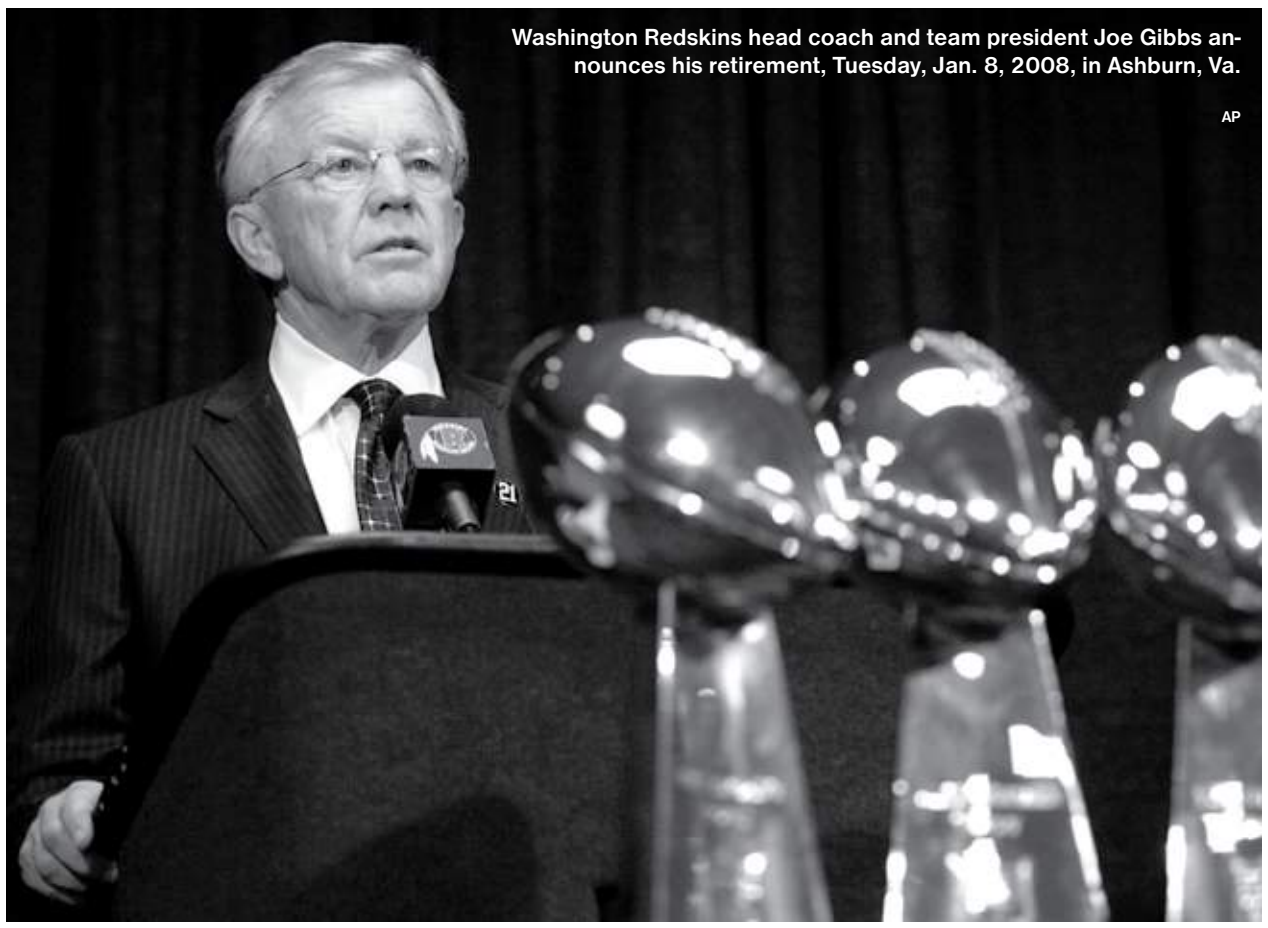
Joe Gibbs steps down as Redskins coach



Washington Redskins head coach and team president Joe Gibbs announces his retirement, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, in Ashburn, Va.

AP

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—Joe Gibbs' second NFL retirement was much like his first. It came as a surprise, and it was all about family.

On the one-year anniversary of his grandson's diagnosis with leukemia, and less than a year after one of his sons left town to return to the family NASCAR team, Gibbs resigned Tuesday as coach of the Washington Redskins so that he could devote more time to what he called "the most important thing I'm going to leave on this earth."

The 67-year-old Hall of Fame coach, coming off an emotional season that included the death of safety Sean Taylor and a late run into the playoffs, said Redskins owner Dan Snyder tried to persuade him to stay on during a conversation that lasted until about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday.

"My family situation being what it is right now, I told him I couldn't make the kind of commitment I needed to make," Gibbs said during a news conference at the Redskins' practice facility, standing a few feet from the three silver Super Bowl trophies he won during his first tenure with the team.

Speaking about his family, Gibbs added: "I felt like they needed me."

Snyder said he "tried very, very hard" retain Gibbs as coach.

"This is something none of us wanted to see happen," the owner said.

The news startled players, who left Sunday's final team meeting certain Gibbs would return for the final year of his contract. Gibbs signed a five-year, $27.5 million deal when he returned to coach the Redskins in 2004, having been lured away from his second career as a NASCAR owner.

"That's part of this business—it's full of surprises," safety Pierson Prioleau said. "Most of us suspected he would be back, and he'll definitely be missed."

Gibbs will continue to serve as an adviser to Snyder but was vague about his new role, other than to say he would no longer have an office at Redskins Park because it would place an unfair burden on the new coach.

"I think we've got a lot of pieces in place," Gibbs said. "I personally want to be a part of that. I want to see it finished. ... Our fans deserve championships. I want to be a part of seeing that come to fruition."

Among the candidates to replace him will be two former head coaches who have been members of his staff, Gregg Williams and Al Saunders. Former Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher also could be a candidate. The team will have to interview at least one minority to comply with the NFL's "Rooney Rule" as it seeks the sixth coach since Snyder bought the team in 1999.

Snyder said the process to find a replacement hadn't started and that he hasn't spoken to Cowher about the job. He and Gibbs praised the current group of assistants and spoke of the value of continuity following a playoff season, a possible sign that player-favorite Williams could have the inside track.

"Coach Williams is a great coach," said fullback Mike Sellers, one of several players to endorse the fiery assistant hired to run the defense in 2004. "The players love him. It would be sad to see him not get it."

When Gibbs retired in 1993, he realized his two sons had grown up without him. Fifteen years later, he didn't want the same to happen with the seven people he lovingly calls his "grandbabies." One of his grandsons, 3-year-old Taylor, undergoes chemotherapy every few weeks. Also, his son Coy left his job as an assistant coach with the Redskins last year to return to North Carolina and work with Joe Gibbs Racing.

That left Gibbs alone in Washington, apart from his wife, sons and grandchildren. He made an overnight trip to North Carolina on Sunday to be with his family, interrupting the postseason routine of meetings that usually follow the final game of the season.

"I had real good visits with everybody, and at that point when I started back to D.C. and got on the plane that afternoon, I kind of had a real strong feeling in my heart of what I felt like I should do," Gibbs said.

Gibbs went 31-36, including 1-2 in the playoffs, in his second stint with the Redskins, always maintaining he intended to fulfill the contract. He said this season was the toughest of his career, referring to Taylor's shooting in November, but pointed to his family as the chief reason for his resignation.

"I hate to leave something unfinished. I made an original commitment of five years. I felt bad about that," Gibbs said, his voice occasionally choking with emotion.

Tuesday's announcement brings an end to a coaching career in which Gibbs twice raised the Redskins from mediocrity into the playoffs. He led the Redskins to four Super Bowls and won three NFL championships from 1981-92; he took the team to the postseason in two of his four seasons when he returned.

"I give him all the credit for putting us in great position for the future," Snyder said. "He's done a great job of stabilizing a situation that became unstable before, quite frankly."

Even so, Gibbs' last four years were down-and-up, down-and-up. He had his two worst seasons as a coach—6-10 in 2004 and 5-11 in 2006—but he also led the Redskins to the playoffs with late runs in 2005 and 2007.

Following Taylor's funeral, Gibbs and his team rallied to win their final four regular-season games, finishing 9-7 to claim the final NFC playoff berth. The unlikely run ended Saturday, when the Redskins lost 35-14 at Seattle.

Gibbs' final career totals: 171-101, including 17-7 in the playoffs, a career .629 winning percentage that ranks third all time behind George Halas and Don Shula among coaches with more than 125 wins.

As word of Gibbs' resignation spread, fans flocked to Redskins Park to say goodbye. Gibbs stepped outside to greet them, creating a scene similar to the one when he emerged from retirement four years ago.

"Y'all tell me what you want done and I'll do it," Gibbs said as he prepared to sign autographs and pose for photos.

"Stay!" yelled a fan in the back.

Lawyer asks Congress to get McNamee tape

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer for Brian McNamee called on Congress to demand and make public the recording of a December interview between his client and two private investigators hired by Roger Clemens' attorneys.

The lawsuit filed Sunday by Clemens against his former trainer contains what appears to be an excerpt of the interview, which took place Dec. 12. That was one day before the release of the Mitchell Report, in which McNamee accused Clemens of using steroids and human growth hormone.

"They should ask for the entire tape of the interview back in December. That's the tape they should ask for," Earl Ward, one of McNamee's lawyers, said Tuesday. "According to Brian, they tried to get him to recant. Brian said, look, what I told the (Mitchell and federal) investigators was the truth."

On Monday, McNamee's lawyers released faxes purportedly signed by Clemens and Andy Pettitte that stated investigators Jim Yarbrough and Billy Belk work for the law firm representing them. They asked that Clemens' attorneys voluntarily release the entire Dec. 12 recording.

Ward said the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which has asked Clemens and McNamee to testify Jan. 16, should ask for the recording. If it isn't turned over, Ward said the committee should subpoena it.

"I think it would be important for Congress to show how consistent Brian has been," Ward said.

Joe Householder, a spokesman for Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said Congress has not yet made a request for the tape.

"The committee has only requested Roger's presence as a witness," he said.

McNamee, questioned by federal prosecutors, told them last year he injected Clemens with performance-enhancing drugs in 1998, 2000 and 2001. Prosecutors had him repeat those charges to Mitchell. Since the report was issued, Clemens has repeatedly and vehemently denied the allegations.

At Clemens' news conference Monday, a recording was played of an ambiguous 17-minute conversation last Friday between the pitcher and McNamee.

"I thought the tape didn't really add anything to the case," Ward said. "It was really just a very emotional and tormented Brian McNamee, who clearly demonstrated that what he is doing is something that he's tormented by. At that point he still had tremendous reverence and adoration for Roger."

Pettitte and former Yankee Chuck Knoblauch also have been asked to testify along with former Mets clubhouse attendant Kirk Radomski, alleged to have supplied McNamee with performance-enhancing drugs.

Pettitte admitted McNamee injected him twice with HGH. Clemens said McNamee injected him only with vitamin B-12 and the painkiller lidocaine.

Committee spokeswoman Karen Lightfoot said Tuesday it still had not been determined how the witnesses would be grouped.

If Clemens and McNamee testify together, it likely would make for great theater. Clemens said he was "shocked" that Pettitte admitted using HGH and that "Andy's my friend - I'm not passing judgment on Andy." But would Pettitte pass judgment on Clemens if asked?

Clemens also said during his news conference in Houston that if McNamee had come to his hometown, "I would be afraid for him because my family's very upset ... and I'm trying to keep my composure together through all this."

"Especially after Roger's comment yesterday, I don't think they're going to put him on the same panel," Ward said.

Police: Rocket accuser lied in rape case

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Detectives believed the former New York Yankees trainer who says he injected Roger Clemens with steroids lied to them during the 2001 investigation of a possible rape, according to documents released Tuesday by police.

Police said Brian McNamee denied having sex with a possibly drugged woman in a hotel pool, even though security guards and other witnesses said they saw him. McNamee hired a New York attorney, who called detectives to arrange an interview.

"I explained to him that his client did talk with me once, and he lied to me," St. Petersburg Police Detective Donald Crotty wrote in a report.

The state attorney's office, however, decided not to press charges.

Clemens cited the incident as an example of McNamee's dishonesty in a defamation lawsuit filed Sunday in Texas.

The seven-time Cy Young Award winner says his former personal trainer lied to baseball investigator George Mitchell to avoid prosecution when he said he injected Clemens at least 16 times with steroids and human growth hormone in 1998, 2000 and 2001. Clemens acknowledged receiving injections from McNamee but said they were vitamin B-12 and the painkiller lidocaine.

"The significant thing is, when this guy's rear end is in trouble, does he lie?" said Rusty Hardin, Clemens' attorney.

The defamation suit states: "McNamee's explanation was totally at odds with the conclusions of the police officers conducting the official investigation in St. Petersburg."

Earl Ward, one of McNamee's attorney, denied the St. Petersburg incident had any bearing on his client's credibility. He said McNamee's statement about Clemens was found credible by the staff of former Senate majority leader Mitchell and federal law enforcement officials investigating steroid use in professional sports.

"The bottom line is that allegation in Florida was investigated, and it went nowhere," Ward said.

McCants, Wolves beat Heat to snap 8-game losing streak

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Rashad McCants continued his sharp shooting streak with 27 points and the Minnesota Timberwolves snapped an eight-game losing streak by beating the reeling Miami Heat 101-91 in the NBA on Tuesday.

Dwyane Wade had 25 points, seven assists and five rebounds for Miami, which played its sixth straight game without Shaquille O'Neal and has lost eight in a row to fall to an Eastern Conference-worst 8-27.

Al Jefferson added 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Marko Jaric had 17 points and eight assists for the Timberwolves, who notched just their fifth win of the season, and first since Dec. 21.

Cavaliers 95, SuperSonics 79

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 22 points, and sat out the final 8:36 as Cleveland coasted to its sixth win in seven games against Seattle.

Kevin Durant, Seattle's silky smooth rookie, scored 24 points and showed off some of his blossoming pro game while being guarded at times by James, who has become close friends with the No. 2 overall pick.

Bucks 87, 76ers 83

At Philadelphia, Charlie Bell and Mo Williams each scored 21 points and Milwaukee beat struggling Philadelphia.

Andrew Bogut had 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Charlie Villanueva added 15 points and 10 boards for the Bucks.

Andre Iguodala scored 21 points and Samuel Dalembert had 16 points and 16 rebounds for the 76ers, who have lost four straight.

Rockets 92, Wizards 84

At Washington, Luther Head's season-high 24 points and Rafer Alston's double-double led Houston to its third consecutive victory at Washington's expense.

Alston finished with 15 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds, and Yao Ming scored 21 points for Houston.

Bobcats 115, Nets 99

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Richardson scored 25 points and hot-shooting Charlotte overcame Jason Kidd's third consecutive triple-double to beat New Jersey.

Gerald Wallace added 21 points and 11 rebounds and Emeka Okafor and Nazr Mohammed added 17 points apiece for the Bobcats, who shot 59 percent in their highest-scoring game of the season. Charlotte snapped a three-game losing streak.

The Nets had their five-game winning streak snapped despite Kidd's 13 points, 11 rebounds and 12 assists. He became the first player since Detroit's Grant Hill 11 seasons ago to have three straight triple-doubles.

Richard Jefferson had 25 points and Vince Carter scored 17.

Lakers 117, Grizzlies 101

At Memphis, Tennessee, Derek Fisher scored 26 points and Kobe Bryant added 25 to lead Los Angeles past Memphis.

It was the 13th win in 16 games for the Lakers. The Grizzlies, who never led, were paced by Mike Miller with 19 points. Pau Gasol added 18 points and 12 rebounds. Rudy Gay finished with 15 points.

Memphis didn't give itself much of a chance by committing 20 turnovers that led to 25 Lakers points.

Jazz 111, Pacers 89

At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer scored 22 points and reserve Matt Harpring added 16 to power Utah past Indiana.

The Jazz, who improved to 13-3 at home, took a 28-point lead in the first half on their way to handing the Pacers their worst loss of the season.

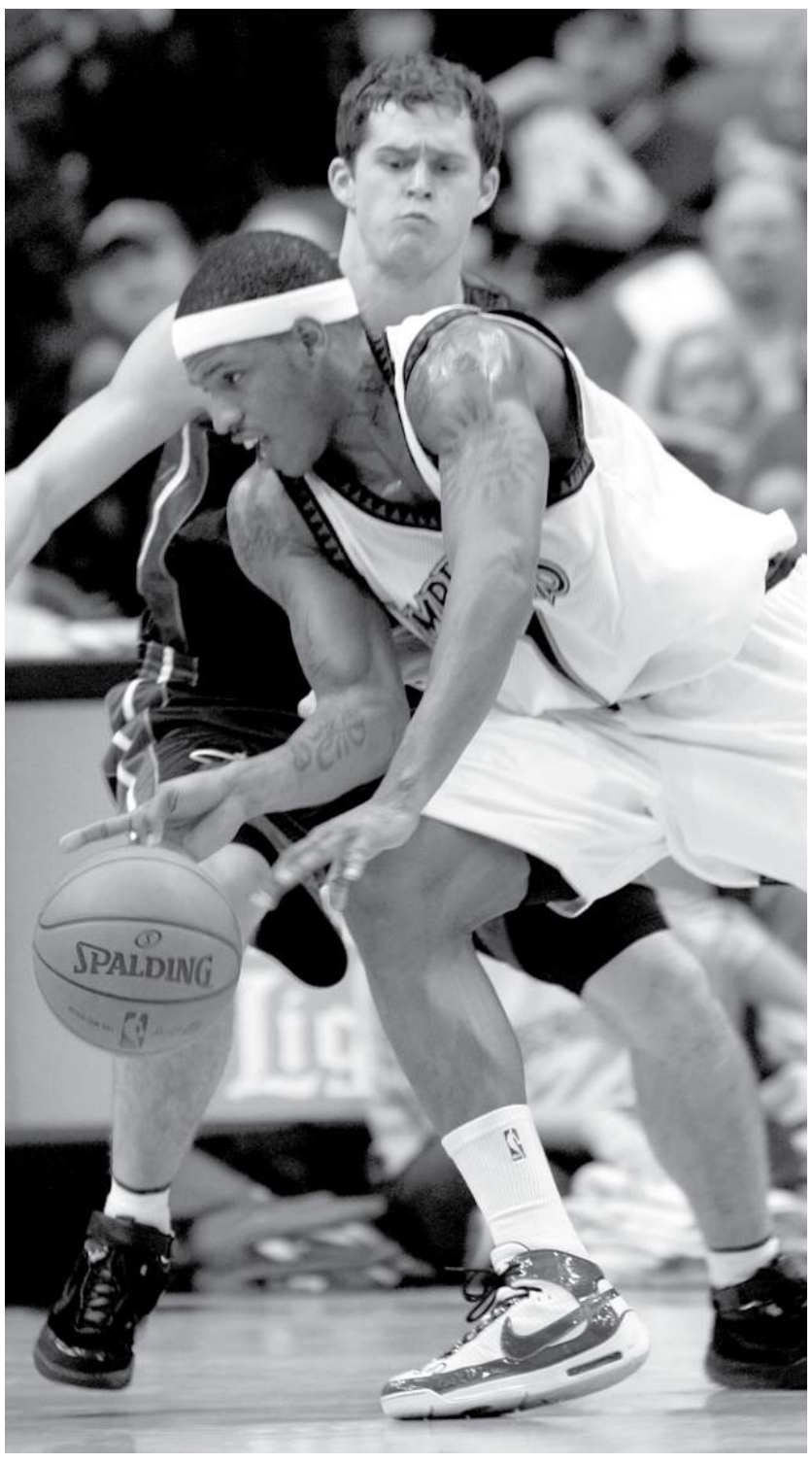
Danny Granger led the Pacers with 17 points and Jamaal Tinsley, who saw Indiana go 1-4 while he sat out with a hamstring injury, made his return with 13 points. The Pacers have started their five-game Western Conference road swing with two blowout defeats after losing to the Los Angeles Lakers 112-96 on Sunday.

Knicks 105, Bulls 100

At Chicago, Eddy Curry scored a season-high 29 points, Jamal Crawford added 24 and New York rallied to beat Chicago and snap a seven-game losing streak.

Stephon Marbury, who scored 18 points, hit two 3-pointers during the Knicks' game-ending 14-2 run, including one from the top of the key that made it 105-100 with 11 seconds left. That sealed the win for the Knicks, who are 2-13 on the road.

Joe Smith led Chicago with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Ben Gordon scored 21 points, and Kirk Hinrich added 20 points and nine assists. But the Bulls couldn't hang on even though they had double-digit leads in each of the final three quarters.



AP

Minnesota Timberwolves' Rashad McCants, right, makes his way around Miami Heat defender Luke Jackson in third quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008 in Minneapolis.

Kings 104, Magic 100

At Sacramento, California, John Salmons scored 21 points to help Sacramento hold off Orlando.

Brad Miller shot 20 points for the Kings, who snapped a rare four-game losing streak at home. And the victory came against the Magic, who at 15-6 have the most road wins this season in the NBA.

The Kings had lost six of seven going into the game.

Orlando has lost three straight.

Goose Gossage elected to Baseball Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—On his first day as a Hall of Famer, Goose Gossage tossed some high, hard ones at Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds.

"I think that if you did do performance-enhancing drugs, you need to come clean and put an end to this," Gossage said. "Just fess up."

After falling short eight times, Gossage received 85.8 percent of the vote Tuesday, easily surpassing the 75 percent threshold for baseball's highest honor and becoming just the fifth reliever in Cooperstown's bullpen.

Angry that the Steroids Era has skewed statistics, Gossage said Bonds and Clemens were in the same situation as far as he was concerned. Both have been accused of using steroids.

"Now we've got to figure out who's telling the truth, and I think that some day we will know the truth," Gossage said.

Gossage said players shouldn't be afraid of admitting they used performance-enhancing drugs. He cited Clemens' close friend, Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte.

"Pettitte came clean. There's been other guys that said they did it," Gossage said. "Life is going to go on."

Mark McGwire, his image in shreds since telling Congress in 2005 that he wouldn't talk about the past, received 128 votes from 10-year members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America—matching the total from last year, when he was eligible for the first time. His percentage was 23.6 percent.

"I don't think this steroid thing is over by any means. I'm sure that most of you guys, the writers, don't really know how to approach this," Gossage during a BBWAA conference call.

Known for his overpowering fastball, fiery temperament and bushy mustache, the Goose received 466 of 543 votes.

"It was very emotional I'll tell you, off the charts. I can't describe the feeling," he said after learning the news. "I can't lie. There's been some frustration and some disappointment."

Jim Rice was passed over yet again in his next-to-last year on the ballot, getting 392 votes (72.2 percent), up from 346 (63.5 percent) last year but 16 short of the 75 percent needed.

"Today's results are obviously a disappointment," Rice said in a statement. "I believe my accomplishments speak for themselves, and a majority of the voters seem to agree. It is tough to come this close, but I remain hopeful for the 2009 results."

Gossage, who fell short by 21 votes last year, was on just 33.3 percent of the ballots when he appeared for the first time in 2000. He joins Hoyt Wilhelm (1985), Rollie Fingers (1992), Dennis Eckersley (2004) and Bruce Sutter (2006) as the only relievers in the Hall.

Gossage was sitting in a recliner in his living room overlooking the Rocky Mountains in Colorado Springs, Colo., when he received the call. He turned to reporters in the room and said, "Oh my God, I've been elected."

"A shock wave went through my body like an anvil just fell on my head," Gossage said. "I think having to wait makes it that much more special."

His mother died in 2006, Gossage said with tears welling up in his eyes, and he had hoped she would live long enough to see him inducted.

Gossage was a nine-time All-Star who pitched for nine major league teams from 1972-94 and had 310 saves - 52 of them when he got seven outs or more. By comparison, Mariano Rivera has one and Trevor Hoffman two.

"It was go as hard as I could for as long as I could, and the jams that I came into were always so exciting," Gossage said. "I felt the more difficult the situation, the better I was."

He spent six seasons with the New York Yankees and is likely to go into the Hall wearing a Yankees cap. He won his only World Series title with them in 1978.

"The biggest game that I ever pitched in on any team by far was that '78 playoff game with the Red Sox," he said. "It seemed like the playoffs after that and the World Series were kind of anticlimactic because of the pressure that was in that one-game playoff."

Rice, who flied out with runners on against Gossage in the eighth and ninth innings of that game, will appear on the writers' ballot for the 15th and final time next year, when career steals leader Rickey Henderson will be among the newcomers. The highest percentage for a player who wasn't elected in a later year was 63.4 by Gil Hodges in 1983, his final time on the ballot.

The last player elected in his final year on the BBWAA ballot was Ralph Kiner in 1975.

"I think Jim Rice does belong in the Hall of Fame," Gossage said. "No hitter scared me, but Jim Rice came the closest."

Andre Dawson was third with 358 votes (65.9 percent), followed by Bert Blyleven at 336 (61.9 percent), Lee Smith at 235 (43.3 percent) and Jack Morris at 233 (42.9 percent).

"We as players that are on the bubble can have opinions, and it does really no good to vent or get angry because it's out of our hands," said Blyleven, whose percentage rose from 47.7 last year. "I know Goose vented a little bit last year, and Jim Rice will probably vent this year. I have four more years. For some reason they make some of these guys like Gossage and Bruce Sutter wait. Like Goose said, he's not going to save any more games."

Tim Raines topped the 11 newcomers on the ballot, receiving 132 votes (24.3 percent). All the others appearing for the first time fell below the 5 percent necessary to remain on the ballot next year.

Gossage will be inducted July 27 in Cooperstown, joined by five men elected last month by the revamped Veterans Committee: former commissioner Bowie Kuhn, former Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley, managers Dick Williams and Billy Southworth and ex-Pirates owner Barney Dreyfuss.

Williams managed Gossage on the San Diego Padres, helping them win the 1984 NL pennant.

"There isn't anybody I'd rather go in with than Dick Williams," said Gossage, who spoke with his former manager right after getting the news.

NMIFA to deliver first set of goals

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is set to deliver the first set of football equipment at 8am today at the Dandan Elementary School.

In a brief email from interschool committee coordinator Patty Coleman, she said the students from Dandan would be the recipients of NMIFA's first set of goals today. The donation will be part of the schools flag ceremony.

JON PEREZ
A youth player dribbles the ball in one of their games in last season's Youth Football League at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Tan Holdings Corp., through NMIFA, on Dec. 19 donated $10,000 to purchase goals for the use of CNMI public schools. NMIFA handed over the check to the Public School System during their principals' meeting.

The money was donated to buy equipment for all public schools so they can offer football as a physical education class. NMIFA will be donating goal posts, footballs, nets, and cones to all public schools.

Once all equipment are given to the schools and the kids had regular practice sessions at their own field, NMIFA would start organizing an interscholastic tournament where elementary students can compete.

NMIFA is hoping the CNMI would someday have the same number of players that Guam has and the number of kids playing football on Saipan would reach 1,000.

Last Oct. 19, the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays scored a 2-0 win over the Mt. Carmel School Knights in the first Interscholastic High School boys' football tournament at the Oleai Field.

The Mantas foiled the Knights' bid of having a perfect season with the win. They previously suffered a 0-3 loss to the Knights in the elimination round.

Aside from getting the championship trophy, members of the team received medals while NMIFA donated new balls to the teams that participated in the tournament.

The inaugural high school league is part of NMIFA's grass roots development program.

Ben Wood and Glenn Smith coached the Manta Rays, while Wes Bogdan was the Knights' coach. Mark McDonald handled the Marianas High School Dolphins, which was the other competing team.

Marianas Coffee run to percolate Jan. 26

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Athletes who are looking for a quick fix to their running addiction can take on the Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run set for Jan. 26.

The 12-kilometer event will feature the first on- and off-road running streak that will provide interested individuals with amazing views of the Saipan Lagoon, challenging terrain, and will pass through some of the oldest wild coffee trees that are still growing on the slopes of Mt. Tapochao.

The Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and will start 6:30am at Micro Beach. Registration will take place at the same location starting at 5:45am.

The course will start at the American Memorial Park and will head straight up to the Navy Hill road up and around Mt. Tapochao, the highest point of the island, down to Capital Hill and back to American Memorial Park.

The cut-off time for runners of the Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run is three hours and 30 minutes. There will be five to six aid stations along the course.

Entrance fee is $30 for all interested participants. T-shirts and a mini island-style barbecue banquet will take place at 12noon at the Micro Beach Pavilon.

Award prizes will be given to the first, second, and third-place male and female participants.

For more information about the Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run, contact Ed Diaz at 664-3210 or email at ediaz@mymarianas.com.

As its name already suggests, the Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run is sponsored by Marianas Coffee Co.

The company was founded by husband-and-wife Chuck and Ann Jordan in 2003. The company now supplies coffee beans to all of the major island hotels except one. It also distributes beans to some of Saipan's best coffee shops. Marianas Coffee also sells its product at DFS Galleria and ABC retail stores.

Eagle Ray 7K Ocean Swim Redux Saturday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Swim Club will be hosting the Eagle Ray 7K Ocean Swim Redux this Saturday, Jan. 12, for those who missed the original swim or for those who wish to repeat the 7,000-meter aquatic journey from Pau Pau Beach to Managaha Island.

The event is dubbed the Eagle Ray 7K Ocean Swim because of the preponderance of eagle rays in the route of the swim, which has resulted in the area being called Eagle Ray City by locals and tourists alike.

Repeat swimmers only have to part with $5, while swimmers going for the first time will have to shell out $15. Event T-shirts—while they last—and refreshments will be provided upon finishing the swim.

Registration is set at 9:30am, and go-time is 10am at Pau Pau Beach in San Roque.

SSC head coach Michael Stewart said fins, wetsuits, paddles, pull buoys, and snorkles are allowed in the swim.

He said volunteer kayakers are needed for safety boats as well. Anyone who can help out with a kayak or provide a kayak, let Stewart know before Saturday. A total of 12 kayaks are needed.

Last Dec. 15, 24 swimmers took the plunge with eight of them—Stewart, Cooper Graf, Laila Qudsi, Rachel Bandelin, Florian Braig, Carol Lyn Pierce, Laura Shevy, and Gary de Guzman—continuing on from Managaha Island to Micro Beach for the All Day 10K.

For application for the swim, e-mail Stewart at wfla@hotmail.com. or call 287-9474 or see Stewart at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool from 3pm to 6pm daily.

Swim day registrations will be accepted, but Stewart would like to know how many swimmers he will expect in advance.

AACPC to hold 3-on-3 caging

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The African American Cultural Preservation Committee Inc. on Saipan will hold a 3-on-3 basketball tournament on Jan. 19 at 10am the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament, open to men's and women's teams 16 years old and up, is organized by the AACPCI in celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 21.

The tournament format will be based on the number of teams that will join in the two divisions. The deadline for sign up is on Jan. 17 and the entrance fee is $45 per team.

The Top 3 teams in each division will receive awards. Sponsors and donations are also welcome.

Jan. 21 will mark the second year that Martin Luther King Day is observed in the CNMI since Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed the bill into law to commemorate the famed human rights activist.

The official Martin Luther King Day ceremony will be held on Jan. 20, Sunday, at the American Memorial Park.

AACPCI member Willie L. Brundidge, in a letter, said Martin Luther King Day would be a great opportunity to bring all cultural communities in the CNMI together in the spirit of unity and camaraderie, which the late Dr. King advocated.

The AACPCI officials are Joe Hill (president), Earl Warren (vice president), and Dorothea Bryant (secretary).

For more information, call Willie L. Brundidge Jr. at 898-5901 or at email spn2186a@saipan.com or Lillian B. at 256-6602 or email kagmanrulz@yahoo.com.

HEO

From Page

Federation Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team late last year.

Heo received an invitation to join the ITF Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team in Australia last October. He left Saipan last Dec. 27 to join a group of Under-18 players that will travel around Australia from Dec. 30 to Jan. 18.

HANMI

From Page

ing Aqua Resort Club battles Pacific Islands Club at 9:30pm.

On Sunday, Jan. 13, Aqua Resort collides with Asia Pacific Hotel Inc. at 3pm, while Hyatt Regency Saipan clashes with Saipan World Resort at 4:45pm. The third game will have PIC meeting Aquarius at 6pm.

Games in the HANMI Cup resumed last Sunday with Hafadai Beach Hotel starting 2008 with a 73-62 win over Aquarius, while APHI tripped World Resort, 87-77.

Defending champion Aqua Resort currently leads the standings with a 2-0 record followed by APHI's 2-1 mark. PIC is in third with a 1-0 card while last year's runner-up Hyatt holds an even 1-1 slate.

Hafadai, 1-2; Aquarius 0-1; and World Resort, 0-2, completes the standings.

The 2007-2008 season of the HANMI Cup is sponsored by Titans Chivas Life, Pacific Telecom, Inc., Coca-Cola Bottlers Micronesia, and Western Sales Trading Company.

Espino said each best player of the game has received a Chivas Life bag, PTI phone card, and gift pack courtesy of Coca-Cola.

The league is sanctioned by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and is organized by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association.

In the championship game of the inaugural season held last March 4, Aqua Resort had to sweat it out before completing a perfect season when forward Eric Dalangin scored on a prayer to allow the Achugao establishment to escape Hyatt, 65-63.

For more information about the ongoing league involving the top names of the islands' hospitality industry, call Espino at 323-1135.

DCCA

From Page

The DCCA bats also worked double time that night with Joey Dela Cruz blasting a two-run home run in the first inning, while Myron Sablan crushing an inside-the-park three-run jack.

Aside from the two-run homer, Dela Cruz also had a fifth-inning RBI double going 2-for-2 with two runs and four RBIs. Sablan went 3-for-4 with two runs and three RBIs.

Jake Celes went 3-for-3 with two runs, two doubles, and three RBIs, while James Fleming, despite not scoring a run, went 2-for-3 with a double and three RBIs.

In other games, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. eked out a 7-6 win over the Water Boys, while Customs Almost used a seven-run fourth-inning romp to escape with a 14-9 decision over Parks and Recreation.

Games were being played at press time with Procurement and Supply battling the Water Boys, while Commonwealth Health Center faced the Division of Agriculture.

The Mayor's Office was playing the Airport Rescue Fire Fighters and the Legislature meeting Labor.

Games on Friday will have CUC colliding with Customs-Almost at 6pm, while Parks & Rec clashes with ARFF at 8pm and the 9pm match will feature the Department of Public Safety going up against the Mayor's Office. The 7pm contest is reserved for the women's division with P&S playing against CHC.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	3	.906	–
New Jersey	17	17	.500	13
Toronto	17	17	.500	13
Philadelphia	14	21	.400	16 1/2
New York	9	24	.273	20 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	22	14	.611	–
Washington	17	16	.515	3 1/2
Atlanta	15	16	.484	4 1/2
Charlotte	12	21	.364	8 1/2
Miami	8	27	.229	13 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	26	8	.765	–
Cleveland	18	17	.514	8 1/2
Indiana	16	20	.444	11
Milwaukee	14	20	.412	12
Chicago	13	20	.394	12 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	23	10	.697	–
Dallas	23	11	.676	1/2
New Orleans	23	11	.676	1/2
Houston	18	17	.514	6
Memphis	10	24	.294	13 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	21	13	.618	–
Portland	21	13	.618	–
Utah	19	17	.528	3
Seattle	9	25	.265	12
Minnesota	5	29	.147	16

Pacific Division

Phoenix	24	10	.706	–
L.A. Lakers	22	11	.667	1 1/2
Golden State	20	15	.571	4 1/2
Sacramento	13	20	.394	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	10	21	.323	12 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Houston 92, Washington 84
Milwaukee 87, Philadelphia 83
Cleveland 95, Seattle 79
Charlotte 115, New Jersey 99
Minnesota 101, Miami 91
L.A. Lakers 117, Memphis 101
New York 105, Chicago 100
Utah 111, Indiana 89
Sacramento 104, Orlando 100

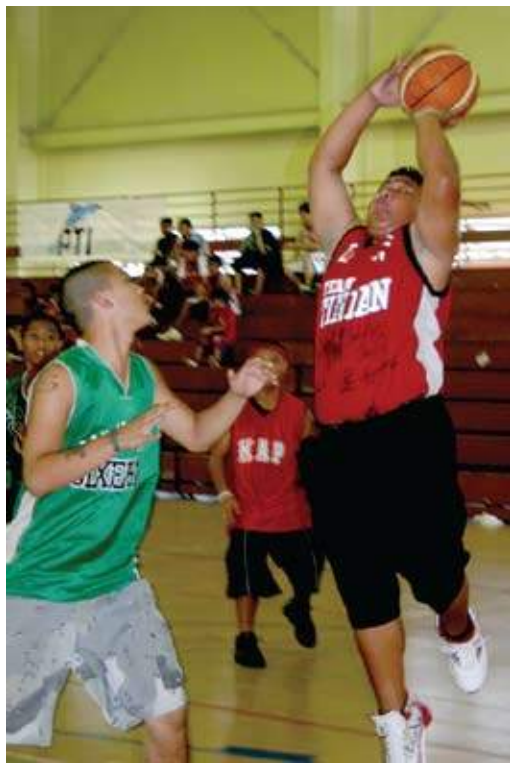
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coaching is community work

Nicko Salem, right, of the Junior Sonics skies high for a layup against the defense of a G-Stars player.

A Tinian player breaks away from his Sixers defender.

The Junior Sonics' Roe Sarmiento gets past the defense of the G-Stars while Lia Rangamar looks on.



Tinian's Dennis Borja puts up a shot as a San Antonio Sixers player looks on in their game in the 4th Annual 14-and-under Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Demetrius Pettis, left, of Tinian tries to get past the defense of the G-Stars' Dino Palacios.

G-Stars coach Jose Tumaquip, seating third right, joins his staff, players, and supporters in flashing the No. 1 sign after winning the finals of the Holiday Hoops.

Tinian's Ian Pascua throws up a shot against the Sixers' Barney Travilla.

Photos and Text By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

G-Stars mentor Jose Tumaquip used the recently concluded 4th Annual 14-and-under Christmas Basketball Tournament to hone his coaching skills as he plans to put up his own youth basketball program.

Tumaquip said coaching a 14-and-under team is part of his thesis in one of his subjects at the Northern Marianas College.

Tumaquip's G-Stars escaped with a 62-60 win over the Junior Sonics in last Saturday's finals at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Joseph Jung made up for two missed free throws by scoring the game-winning basket that lifted the G-Stars to victory.

The Junior Sonics were undefeated in five games in the tournament while at the same time handing the G-Stars their lone loss, a 73-51 thrashing on Friday.

The loss was the third-straight finals setback for coach Jesse Tudela who previously lost the titles in the 25-and-under and the 17th Saipan Rotary Club 18-and-under youth basketball leagues.

In the battle for third place, the San Antonio Sixers escaped with a 92-85 decision over the visiting Team Tinian.

The G-Stars won $250 with their win, while the Sonics settled for the $100 cash prize. The Sixers and Tinian went home with $75 and $50 while the fifth and sixth place squads collected $25 each.

The Division of Youth Services and the Mayor's Office in cooperation with the Division of Sports and Recreation and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs organize the Holiday Hoops basketball tournament.

Tinian coach Keith Nabors, in white cap, joins his players for a group shot after Saturday's games.

Coach Ray Duenas, second left, and the San Antonio Sixers celebrate their third-place finish.

Nino Feria, center, of the Junior Sonics tries to score against the defense of a G-Stars player while Tristan Ecalnea looks on.

Coaching is community work

G-Stars mentor Jose Tumaquip used the recently concluded 4th Annual 14-and-under Christmas Basketball Tournament to hone his coaching skills as he plans to put up his own youth basketball program.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Joe Gibbs steps down as Redskins coach

Joe Gibbs' second NFL retirement was much like his first. It came as a surprise, and it was all about family.

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8th place for R.J. in San Diego

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CNMI golf prodigy R.J. Macaranas settled for eighth place in the boys' 8-and-under division of the San Diego Junior Amateur Tournament held last Jan. 3 and 4 at the Sycuan Resort in San Diego, California.

The son of Richard and Becky Macaranas of Saipan shot a 66 and 68 for the two-day tournament to finish with a 134. He competed against 36 other junior players.

Macaranas shot a 6-over on the front nine with a birdie on the par 4 1st hole, a couple of pars, four bogeys, and a double bogey for a score of 36.

In the back nine, Macaranas shot a 3-over with a birdie on the par 3 12th hole, four pars, and four bogeys for a score of 30.

His 8-over 66 on the first round was fourth best and was good enough for Macaranas to be in the final group in the final round.

Macaranas continued his strong play in the front nine of the second round, firing a 3-over 34 after shooting another birdie on the par 4 1st hole, making five pars, while being held down by two bogeys and a double bogey.

The last hole of the front nine, however, proved the beginning of the end for Macaranas in the tournament.

"On the 9th hole I began to lose my focus when I was chipping for eagle on an uphill green. The shot did not clear the slope and rolled back down the hill to about the same distance from where I began. My next putt for a birdie barely cleared the high slope of the green. On my fourth shot for par the ball lipped out, and my emotions began running out of control," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Macaranas said it was the most stressful part of the tournament, as he could not snap out of the slump he was in, even as his father tried hard to cheer him up.

Things fell apart from there as the recent Saipan visitor came away with a 7-over 34 after registering only four pars as against three bogeys and two double bogeys in the back nine.

"I did not gain ground on the leaders, and lost position to three other competitors and ended up in 8th place," he said. "I had a great time, except for the back nine of the final round."

Macaranas is expected to see action in 13 other tournaments this spring from Feb. 3 to May 3, ending with the Bridgestone Spring Series Championship at the PGA of Southern California Golf Course.

R.J. Macaranas finished eighth in the boys' 8-and-under division of the San Diego Junior Amateur Tournament held last Jan. 3 and 4 at the Sycuan Resort in San Diego, California.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Heo through Round of 32

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo once again advanced to the Round of 32 in the boys' 16-and-under singles of the 2008 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup last Tuesday at the Albury Tennis Association courts in Towsend St. Albury, New South Wales.

Heo, who drew a bye in the first round, scored a 6-4, 6-2 win over Dane Hallinan of Victoria in the Round of 64.

Only 11th seed Joel Morrison stands in the way of Heo reaching the Round of 16. They played at 8:30am yesterday but results were not yet available at press time.

Morrison also drew a first round bye and was a 6-2, 6-1 winner over New South Wales' Benjamin Gordon to reach the Round of 32.

Heo is also scheduled to play in the boys' 16-and-under doubles division where he will team up with fellow International Tennis Federation Pacific Oceania Junior touring team member William O'Connell.

They are in the main draw where they will play against Northern Territory's Dominic De Nichilo and George Shepard. Their match was also ongoing at press time and results were not yet available as of this writing.

The winner of the match will face the second-seeded pair of Morrison and Ethan Scobie of the Northern Territory today.

Competition in the Margaret Court Cup ill run from Jan. 8 to 12 where boys and girls events in the 10-, 12-, 14-, 16-, and 18-and-under age division titles will be contested by a total of 359 players.

After the Margaret Courth Cup, Heo's next tournament will be the CountryLink Victoria Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga from Jan. 12 to 15.

Heo also reached the semifinal round of the consolation draw of two age divisions in the 2008 Ducats G.V. Junior Tennis Tournament in Shepparton, Australia last Sunday where he lost to tougher opponents from the host team at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club.

Heo is competing in his first Australian junior championship tournament after being invited to become a member of the International Tennis

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JON PEREZ

Ji Hoon Heo returns a shot in this file photo taken during his game in the DFS Micronesian Tennis Tournament at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

HANMI cage league adds Thursday to schedule

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Beginning today, Thursday nights will be added to the weekly schedule of the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-hotel Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

HANMI Cup organizers decided to add Thursday to its schedule in order to finish the league early after Aquarius Beach Tower joined the six other competing teams.

Three games are being played every Sunday in the HANMI Cup with the first match scheduled at 3pm. Thursday's games will be played beginning 8pm and 9:30pm.

Games today will have Saipan World Resort trying to nail its first win when they face the also winless Aquarius at 8pm, while the league-lead-

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JON PEREZ

The Asia Pacific Hotel Inc. basketball team strikes a pose during last month's opening of the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-hotel Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DCCA pummels DPL Red Sox

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs rolled past the Department of Public Land-Red Sox, 15-1, during Friday's resumption of games in the 2007 Inter-Government Men's Softball League at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The win was the fourth straight in five games for DCCA after suffering a 16-6 loss to PSS on Nov. 23.

Elias Rangamar pitched five complete innings in the game shortened by the 10-run mercy rule. He held the Red Sox to one earned run on six hits with four strikeouts and no walks.

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